

REPORTS
OF
United
States
Delegates
ON
WESTERN
CANADA.

OTTAWA
GOVERNMENT PRINTING BUREAU
1898

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REPORTS OF UNITED STATES DELEGATES ON WESTERN CANADA.

The following reports have been received by the officials of the Immigration Branch of the Department of the Interior from delegates from different districts in the States of Michigan, Iowa, South Dakota, Missouri, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Illinois and California, who were sent by farmers residing in their respective districts, to investigate and report regarding the advantages offered by Western Canada as an agricultural country. These reports speak for themselves, and show how deeply impressed these delegates were by the magnificent opportunities of the Great Canadian West, as unfolded to their eyes on their recent trip.

BALMORAL HOTEL,
VIRDEN, 29th June, 1898.

To the President of Virden Board of Trade :

I wish to express my satisfaction with the lands which I have been shown within your district.

Mr. Adamson (who is a gentleman in every respect) acting as my guide, we left Virden Tuesday noon, 28th June, 1898, and traversed the townships 7, 8, 9 and 10, ranges 26, 27, 28 and 29, taking the roads nearly in the

centre of the homestead lands, I found among these many improved farms on which the crops were in the finest condition, with the exception of some weeds. However, this cannot well be blamed to the farmer, as we all understand that weeds will grow in any land that is fertile and under all conditions of weather. All men of industry I found with good wheat fields, stock and many improvements on their farms, which speaks well for the country and the class of people in these districts. Along the sides of these fine farms are the unimproved homesteads, consisting of the same soil and the same lay of land, and in the same condition as the valuable farms of which I speak.

Fuel is not so plentiful here, but I understand that native coal is furnished very reasonable, and in this way this fault is mitigated. Water, I understand, can be and is found on every homestead that has been settled, although it sometimes causes the settler to search for a good supply in several places before it is located—so I advise the settler to find water before building.

Expressing my satisfaction of the view of the lands, and giving thanks to the Virden Board of Trade for their kind treatment of me while here,

I remain, truly yours,

(Sd.) R. W. HUFF,


*Delegate of the Canada Free Land Club,
Burlingame, Kan.*

PRINCE ALBERT, SASK.,
17th August, 1898.

WILLIAM MCCREARY, Esq.,
Immigration Commissioner,
Winnipeg, Man.

SIR,—We, the undersigned delegates from Kansas and Nebraska, U.S.A., in reporting the results of our trip to Dauphin, and subsequently to Regina, Prince Albert and the middle Saskatchewan country, beg to thank you for your promptness upon our arrival in Winnipeg, owing to which we set out at once for Dauphin by the new railway to that settlement. The road is good, the country level as a table, the passenger cars fair, for so new a line, and the refreshment station at Gladstone and hotels at Dauphin all that could be desired. We cannot speak too well of them. At Dauphin, a town 18 months old, we got board and lodging quite as good as in our own States for about one-half the money. These liberal charges were not confined to Dauphin. We had as good fare at the same price in the other places we visited, and met with nothing but reasonable charges and good treatment from first to last. Our party throughout was under the charge of Mr. Mair. We left Winnipeg on 5th August, and arrived at Dauphin the same evening, our delegation consisting of E. F. Brooks, of Westphalia, Kansas; G. S. and S. W. Bennett, of Hall's Summit, Kansas; John Flannery, of Stewart, Nebraska; and J. T. McPhee and William Roth, of Lenox, Iowa. The latter two gentlemen, owing to the illness of one of them, had to return from Prince Albert. Our American tickets were limited to 21 days, and as we had other large regions to visit, we could only spend a short time in the Dauphin country. We examined, however, the prin-

cipal cultivated areas in the southern parts of township 25, range 19—the great wheat fields of Wishart, Buchanan, Owen, Smith, Ross, Sinclair, the Whitmores, Drinkwaters, &c., and, subsequently, others to the north, and never, in our experience, have we seen finer grain. The region is a great plain lying north and east of the Riding and Duck Mountains, now overspread, in its uncultivated parts, by a low growth of willow, the successor of an immense forest destroyed in recent years by fire. The soil, a vegetable mold resting upon clay, is manifestly very fertile. There is no difficulty in clearing the land, if we can use such a term, the scrub being easily uprooted by three horses hitched to an ordinary brush plough. The brush is then gathered into heaps and burnt, and the land is ready for use. The whole country is watered by numerous streams flowing from the slopes of Riding Mountain, and excellent well water is found everywhere, at from 9 to 18 feet. Extensive forests of spruce and tamarack cover the northern parts of the mountain from which timber is manufactured in Dauphin and elsewhere, and sold at from \$12 a thousand at the mills. Oak and elm and the ash-leaved maple are common along the streams, wild hops and wild fruits are abundant, and ripen in the open air. Vegetation throughout is surprisingly luxuriant and, without hesitation, we would rank the whole region amongst the best grain-growing areas of the continent. The output of wheat last year was about 75,000 bushels; but this year it is estimated at over a million. We cannot speak as highly of its stock-raising facilities. The absence of natural hay-meadows place it in the background in this respect. We saw excellent timothy, however, which thrives, and the country between this and the Swan River



country, which we were unable to visit, we were assured by parties from there, is a good hay country, and superior to Dauphin itself. Westward, too, lie the homestead lands which now, and when fresh surveys are completed, will afford comfortable homes to thousands of diligent families. The great Gilbert Plains, also, we were unable to visit, where grain growing has been conducted with the best results for years, and which will become a vast wheat field as soon as a branch railway reaches there. Settlement is speeding in all these regions, reminding us indeed of the early days in our own States ; and, as we have examined, since our visit to Dauphin, a portion of the great country lying south and east of Prince Albert, we can readily imagine the tide of immigration which will soon flow into the Canadian West.

Returning to Portage la Prairie, where we were shown a very good native apple, we took the C.P.R. west-bound train to Brandon, and visited the famous Experimental Farm and the Indian Industrial School, both supported by Government. At the Farm a multitude of experiments are carried out with new varieties of seeds and plants, samples of which are sent to farmers in all directions. the results noted and the farming communities warned against unsuitable varieties. Everybody has free access to the Farm, and its utility is manifest. The Indian Industrial School, too, seems to be carefully managed, and this and kindred institutions all over the country are rapidly lifting the Indian children of both sexes out of savagery into civilization.

We drove around the Brandon neighbourhood, and found the crops in fair condition. The soil in this region appears to be very suitable for grain growing. On the Experi-

mental Farm we plucked ears of wheat over six inches long, and oats over 18 inches--all well filled, and by no means uncommon. Wheat growing is the chief industry of this region, and the vast fields under culture are impressive.

On the 8th we went on to Regina, and drove through the country for miles, observing especially the Callum and other noted farms. The soil in this region is a tenacious clay, which is very deep and productive in wet seasons. The standing grain, we remarked, was very dense, the ears being well filled and the stems tall and compact. Second crops of wheat are frequently grown here upon stubble, and, though we think the practice unwise, yet we must say that the fields we observed so sown were remarkably fine. It requires three large and powerful horses to plough this very heavy clay, and the plough in use does not scour--a serious draw-back. When dry seasons occur, too, the yield is meagre; but this is being overcome we were assured by fallowing. Upon the whole, it is a wonderful region, but not comparable with other places we have seen for stock-raising.

The following morning we left for Prince Albert, the capital of Saskatchewan, a district whose area is over 107,000 square miles, and here our most interesting observations of soil and productions began. The town is a flourishing one, with police barracks, handsome public buildings of brick, and numerous private residences of a superior class. Several breweries are located here, one of which cost over \$30,000; also three saw-mills and two rolling mills, one of which is run by the Hudson's Bay Company, whose headquarters for this district are here. Great forests of spruce and pine lie to the north, but in all other directions innumerable prairie

ries and meadows, interspersed with clumps of aspen and other trees, give the region a very picturesque and park-like appearance.

From this point began our examination of the region to the south and east, and rigs and the necessary camping outfit having been secured, we set out for the upper crossing of the south branch of the Saskatchewan. Prince Albert is on the north, or main branch of the river which, rising in the Rocky Mountains, is navigable for large steamers, the water rising as the summer advances. The distance to the south branch is here about 20 miles, the road lying across a hilly country of interspersed woodland and prairie, with many farms on the way, for the region is well settled. South of the crossing lies a fine region, known as Chacastapasin's Reserve, now thrown open for purchase; also some fine townships, such as 45 and 46A, in ranges 26 and 27, into which no settlement has as yet been directed. The trail we followed, however, is that which leads through the Carrot River country to the Stony Creek region, portions of which have been settled for 14 years, and which has become locally famous for its stock.

On the evening of the 11th, we reached Mr. Jackson's farm, 22 miles from the crossing, and in the heart of the Carrot River country, and the following morning passed through Kinistino and the remaining portion of this district. It is a very fine one, indeed, consisting of rolling prairies intersected by belts of timber and numberless hay meadows. The soil is unsurpassed, being a deep rich humus on a sub-soil of clay, resting on gravel. Good water is found all over at from 18 to 30 feet, and we can truthfully say that scarcely a section of land in this

region is short of a fair amount of timber, fit for fencing or fuel. Indeed, it has the appearance, at a distance, of a wooded country, which opens, upon approach, into fertile prairies and abundant grass. We may add that to the north lies a forest of spruce of merchantable size, and within easy reach. There is considerable settlement at Carrot River, and every farmer we interviewed had the same story of success, the evidences of which were before our eyes. Before going into particulars on this point, however, we shall pursue our route and describe the superficial features of the regions beyond.

The Stony Creek country differs materially from Carrot River, in being more open and less rolling. Beyond Flett's Springs it consists of great expanses identical in appearance with "Portage Plains," but more extensive, and with this important point in their favour, that hay is plentiful.

The horned cattle we saw here are superior to any we ever saw in our own States. It is impossible, indeed, to overrate the beauty of these vast prairies and luxuriant meadows, whilst the country, though open and plain-like, is yet, in general, sufficiently supplied with fuel, and to the south a fine forest of conifers offers abundance of lumber. The Stony Creek, though not a large stream, is a steady one, and has several good water powers. A steam saw-mill has hitherto supplied the settlers with lumber, but the water powers, one of which we examined, will be very useful hereafter.

Beyond the Stony Creek district lies a region known as the Leather River country, into which we were the first delegates to penetrate. Mr. Mair, at our request, extending our trip in that direction as far as Hide-hanging Creek. There is as yet no trail, save an Indian one into these parts, and the drive

over virgin prairie was rough, but amply satisfactory otherwise, revealing, as it did, a soil richer than any we had yet seen. This region, once covered by a forest of aspen and black poplar, was, twelve years ago, swept by a tremendous fire, which converted it into prairie, over which, in parts, is still lying a good deal of small dead timber, hidden by multitudes of raspberry bushes and wild rose. The parts we penetrated consist of wide ridges dividing broad but shallow valleys, covered with luxuriant hay. These ridges seem to converge into a vast table-land, clothed with an endless mass of wild pea-vine thickly entangled, and luxuriant beyond description. For mixed farming this is an ideal country, and struck us as the most inviting we had ever seen. Cattle are driven in to winter here, but, as yet, there is no settlement whatever, though the region is surveyed into townships in all directions. We were informed that this class of country extends easterly and south-westerly to the Red Deer and Swan River, forming a continuous belt of unsurpassed farming country, through which will pass the new line of railway now under construction from Dauphin and, to the south, the parallel line of the Manitoba and North-Western.

Having concisely described the physical features of the foregoing districts, the sum of our conclusions is that, hitherto, we have seen no region which contains the primary requisites of the farmer in such close proximity. Here land of the first quality, wood, water and hay are to be found in all directions, and free homesteads for tens of thousands of settlers. The farmers scattered thinly throughout the country had all, as we have said, the same story. Without exception, they are men who came in with little

means, or no means at all. All of them had fields of wheat and coarse grain whose quality was uniformly excellent, and fine herds of fat cattle and flocks of sheep which, grazing around every homestead, seemed to thrive in this region, for everybody keeps them. Pigs do well, and poultry, the settlers generally having large flocks of turkeys, geese and pigeons. Even the peacock is acclimated in this wild region. At Mr. Sanderson's farm we saw some fine specimens of this stately bird. Amongst the oldest settlers in the region are Messrs. Jackson, Meyes, Lowry, Dinsmore, Plant, Campbell, and, in the Stony Creek district further east, Messrs. Aikenhead, Wentworth, and others, all of whom are extensive farmers. Mr. Lowry, for example, when we saw him, had 70 acres under crop, over 100 cattle and 175 sheep, besides other adjuncts. We saw land here which had been cropped for 18 years, still yielding abundantly. Mr. Plant told us he began with nothing, and has now considerable money loaned out, and that he would not take \$3,000 for his farm. Another man began, he assured us, "with 25 cents and a pig," and is now well-to-do. Messrs. Aikenhead and Wentworth are farmers who emigrated from the United States and found their way into this country some years ago. The latter only settled on his present homestead in 1894. He had sunk everything in South Dakota, and had but two horses, two yearling helpers and \$5 in cash when he began anew in Canada. To-day he has a fine farm, and has recently sold 25 head of cattle, retaining 74, has 12 horses, 7 pigs, a large flock of sheep, hundreds of hens, turkeys and geese, makes 40 pounds of butter a week, after keeping his family, and owes nothing. His quarter-section is just at the corner where four town-

ships meet, and these townships at present have only fourteen settlers. Mr. Alkenhead we did not see, he being from home, but we had an interesting interview with his wife. This lady and her daughter, who looked the picture of health and prosperity, broke out into exclamations, not at their want of success, for they had done well, the mother said, but at the want of good faith which had prevented them from doing better. "We came here years ago," she exclaimed, "on the faith of promises that the railway would be into this country in another year, and here we are still without it. It seems," she said, "that the authorities have built railways in all the poorest country in the belief that the good country would settle itself." When we looked at the numerous byres and stables, the comfortable house, and the evidence of plenty all around, we were amazed, but, as strangers we could not but admit that it seemed incomprehensible that so magnificent a region should have been neglected so long. We could only assure her, as we had ourselves been assured, that the iron horse would soon career over this fertile wilderness. We visited and conversed with many other settlers, but will not swell our report with their statements, which were all alike in substance. The great draw-back of the country is the want of a railway and a consequent market for wheat, the nearest point being Prince Albert, the terminus of a curiously indirect line. For coarse grain a good market is now opened at the large cattle ranch of Gordon and Ironsides, some miles south of Stony Creek, who buy all that offers at Prince Albert prices. But, so far, the settlers have mainly depended upon stock, which is of the very best quality; and, after seeing the country, it is by no means surprising that so many

cattle are reared and sold. A herd of 800 animals of all ages was recently driven from the Prince Albert district to Montana by dealers from that State, and large numbers are constantly bought for shipment to England, or to be held over at the cattle station mentioned, for the dealers buy cattle of all ages. Spring calves at present at Stony Creek bring \$8, yearlings \$15 to \$20, 2-year-olds \$30, 3-year-old steers, averaging from 1,200 to 1,400 pounds, bring at present, 3 cents per pound, live weight. Buyers visit the homesteads and lift the cattle and sheep from the pastures at these prices. We ascertained the prices of farming implements and other requirements of the settler, and found them, in most cases, to be very reasonable.

We cannot close our report without referring to some other matters of interest to our people. In the first place, the school law of the Territories is of a liberal character. Ten children entitle the parents to a school, 70 per cent of the teacher's salary being paid out of the Educational Grant. In every settlement in the region described there are ample school facilities, the buildings being also used as churches and assembly rooms. Taxation is very light. Indeed, many of the settlers assured us that, so far, they had never been called upon for taxes at all. The roads are of nature's making, and are everywhere excellent, the bridges, &c., being built by grants of Government money, which are fairly apportioned to each district. The homestead privileges are the most generous imaginable. For example, not only can the father of a family secure his homestead by the payment of ten dollars, but his sons over 18 years of age can homestead a quarter-section each adjacent to or at a reasonable distance from their father's claim, can

continue to live with him and, by breaking simply one acre a year for three years, become entitled to free patents. Another convenience to the intending settler is the establishment of branch Dominion Land Offices. Hitherto, for example, the homesteader, after selecting his land in the region described, has had to make a tedious and expensive journey to the District Land Office at Prince Albert. Now a branch office is opened at Stony Creek, and his entry can be made with little loss of time. We visited Mr. Clemens, a farmer and sub-agent there, and had explained to us the working of the system, entries being made by him in proper form, and duly reported to the Head Office.

Nor is it necessary to be present in person in order to enter a homestead. A resident in the United States can empower a proper party here to do so for him. In fact, the Dominion land regulations seem devised to facilitate, in every way, the objects of the bona fide homesteader. Again, we must refer to the law and order which prevail throughout these scattered communities. The tramp, who plies his trade with immunity in our States, is here unknown, or, if known, is set to work or run out of the country. Mounted policemen stationed at intervals make life and property perfectly safe in all directions.

In conclusion, we urge upon intending emigrants from our States to the regions described to settle there, if possible, in groups of families. Eight or ten families so settling would be entitled to a school at once, and the sense of isolation and homesickness would scarcely be felt. The advantages of such a plan are manifest in other ways. But, should the individual family "go it alone," we can assure any such of a hospitable reception and ready help

from the people of the Prince Albert district. Our return to Prince Albert was attended by no incident worth mentioning. Thence we proceed to the Medicine Hat and Edmonton districts in Western Assiniboia and Northern Alberta, which we shall describe in a future report.

(Signed) GEORGE S. BENNETT,
Hall's Summit, Kan.

S. W. BENNETT,
Hall's Summit, Kan.

E. F. BROOKS,
Westphalia. Kan.

JOHN FLANNERY,
Stuart, Nebraska.

We, the undersigned delegates from Michigan, U.S.A., reached Prince Albert too late to join the delegates from Kansas and Nebraska in their trip to Carrot River and Stony Creek, but can fully vouch for the accuracy of the above report as regards Prince Albert and its adjacent country, which we carefully examined.

(Signed) A. E. DOTY,
Harrison, Mich.

W. W. BURNETTE,
Harrison, Mich.

CALGARY, ALTA.,

28th August, 1898.

WILLIAM F. MCCREARY, Esq.,
Immigration Commissioner,
Winnipeg, Man.

SIR,—In our communication of the 17th inst., we reported our observations in the Dauphin, Regina and Prince Albert districts, and now record our impressions of the Medicine Hat ranching country in Western Assiniboia, and our more extended examination of the Edmonton district in North Alberta. We saw both districts to the best advantage, harvesting having just begun, and the weather all that could be desired. Our party consisted of E. F. Brooks, of Westphalia, and G. V. and S. W. Bennett, of Hall's Summit, Kansas; and of A. E. Doty and W. W. Burnette, of Harrison, Michigan.

Arriving at Medicine Hat, we found a town of some size, evidently, too, a brisk business point, and which might be well lighted, for natural gas is found here which, issuing from a shaft sunk within the town, burns night and day and, in another quarter, is utilized, at a slight cost, for burning lime kilns.

The following morning we set out for Gros Ventre Creek, a ranching district, in the direction of the Cypress Hills. The trail lies over rolling, treeless prairies, intersected by dry coulees, with occasional meadows and ponds in the distance. The soil is a clay marl, which nourishes a short growth of wiry, nutritious grass, and the few grain-producing parts are confined to a moderate depression here and there in the prairie, surrounded by ridges which retain drainage or rain enough to nourish the crops. These are not numerous; indeed, for many miles we saw but one grain-producing "basin"—that

of Mr. Hawke—which we visited and closely examined, and which is a good example of its kind. There we found about 50 acres of grain, principally oats, which looked well and would certainly average 70 bushels to the acre, the wheat also being very fair. The new potatoes were dry and good, and the yield satisfactory. Garden stuffs looked well the green peas, of which we partook here at dinner being delicious. Melons, too, ripen in the open air, and tomatoes. Hard work and good methods have certainly carved quite a successful farm out of this stiff soil, which, as an adjunct to cattle-ranching, as yet the true industry of this region, is no doubt valuable, since oats generally bring 40 cents, wheat 90 cents, and potatoes, 50 cents a bushel. Eggs and butter sell from 20 to 35 cents, and even more in winter, so that it is worth while to cultivate some land, where a fitting place is found. Seeding begins here about the beginning of April, and June and July are accounted the wet months. Hall storms and high winds occur, but are not frequent; harvest weather is generally fair, and winter is moderate and agreeable, beginning with a storm in November, followed by fine open weather, with little snow. In fact, in some winters sleighs are not used at all; but, more frequently, ice forms on the roads, and makes good going. Excellent water is found everywhere at about 23 feet, and timber is practically free, being got at the Cypress Hills to the south, a 25 cent yearly permit covering all that a rancher requires for building and fuel, whilst good spruce lumber is sawn at Cypress and sells there at \$10 a thousand. We need scarcely refer further to farming proper in this region—its future depending upon some scientific system of irrigation, to be devised hereafter. The real

employment is that of the small stock-raisers, the ranchers who carry from 150 head of cattle up, not to speak of sheep. The country is open to every one, the bare cost of grazing being 2 cents an acre, and a careful man may begin in a small way here with a moderate capital, as he need not even buy, but can lease a quarter-section of land, though it is well to secure this for the shelter of stock and other purposes. Cattle winter out perfectly, and there is a wide country for summer ranging, though the winter range is not so plentiful, owing to the scarcity of shelter. The cattle in these parts are principally short-horns, though some think the Galloway would suit the country better.

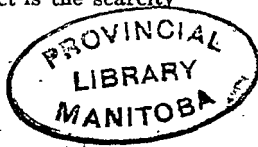
In one part of the district there is, we believe, a large herd of black cattle which we did not see, but which, we were told, were doing remarkably well. Prices are good, with an upward tendency, 3-year old steers selling readily at present for \$46. Sheep thrive in the region, and feed out all winter, but have to be shepherded, as elsewhere. We noted one very large flock (a Mr. Robertson's) with only one man in charge. They were originally Merinos, but bred to Shropshires, and have to be coralled every night. The fleece averages 6 pounds, and sells at 10 cents a pound. This is an industry which is tending to increase here, and cattlemen are going into it. The part we visited is, of course, but a meagre portion of the country open to ranching. This includes an area of over 110,000 square miles, there being at present only some 250 ranchers scattered throughout all this immense territory, who carry, we were told, about 34,000 head. In our opinion, this region is better suited than most others for the small rancher who has scant means to begin with. Mr. Hawke, for example, came here from Wingham, On-

tario, in 1883, with very limited means, and has now 240 head of cattle, the farm we have described, and other valuable interests, and is entirely independent. The Porter Brothers, on Gros Ventre Creek, began without capital, and now own some 700 head, having sold \$3,500 worth this year. There is room for a great number of small ranchers, who may also farm a little, if they please and, in favourable seasons, get fair returns. But "mixed farming" means here simply growing vegetables and grain for stock. From what we have seen of it we strongly recommend this region to the class referred to. Such have succeeded and there is abundance of room for many more; in a word, for men whose principal capital is a sound constitution, good judgment and energy.

The following Sunday we spent in Calgary, a town whose handsome stone business blocks and public buildings surprised us not a little and, on Monday morning left by the C. & E. Railway for Edmonton, the capital of North Alberta, being joined at Calgary by Messrs. David Brown and Geo. Thompson, of Boyden, Iowa, and, en route, by Messrs. A. Cleve and Jas. Common, of Danforth, Illinois. We arrived at Edmonton the same night, and found it to consist of two substantial towns, divided by the Saskatchewan. We were domiciled in the older town, North Edmonton, and from it made our excursions. The site is historic, it being the seat of an immense trade in by-gone days between the Plain Indians and the Hudson's Bay Co., a portion of whose old fort still stands, though the town proper is situated on a lofty bluff further down the river. It is clean, neat, well-built, with excellent hotels and public buildings, and is full of divers nationalities, including a good

class of Americans, who were all loud in praise of the country and everything connected with it. It was pleasant to meet so many of our countrymen who were doing well, and had no desire to return to their old States.

Our first excursion was to the "Sturgeon Settlements," north of Edmonton, following an excellent trail to the Sturgeon River, bridge and saw-mill, and beyond it into the homestead lands of New Lunnö, a fine region, overgrown with willow and aspen, not difficult to get rid of—returning by the "correction line" to St. Albert, a drive of over 60 miles. The soil all the way closely resembles that of the Prince Albert districts, described in our former report, less abundant in humus, perhaps, but a rich, sandy loam of a dark brown or blackish colour, resting upon alluvial clays of various consistencies, and of unknown depths. No stones are to be seen, but for a good many miles beyond the town the country is pretty thickly overgrown with copses of willow and poplar. Further on it opens out into a magnificent country, with enough of roll to give fine exposures to the immense grain fields which now met our eye in every direction. For many miles the country is largely settled, and the wheat, oats and barley we saw would make an eastern farmer's mouth water. The "harvesters" were busy everywhere, for much of the grain was ripe, the average yield being estimated, and we think safely so, at 35 to 40 bushels to the acre for wheat, and 60 to 80 for oats. Farming is conducted on an extensive scale in this region, the Bulls, Cameron, Latimer, and scores of others having large acreages, while one farm we passed (the "Hutton") had 320 acres under crop, and all uniformly good. The drawback to this district is the scarcity



of water in some places, and the comparative paucity of hay. Water is convenient, of course, along the Sturgeon River, but elsewhere is not as certainly reached as could be wished. We saw some wells 40 feet deep which had little water in them; but deeper sinking may lead to a better supply. The hay meadows, again, have largely dried up, and wild hay is not abundant. We saw some good timothy, however, which does well here, and will be largely grown hereafter. The cattle of this region, in consequence, do not compare in form and condition with those of the Carrot River and Stony Creek country. The farmers keep fewer of them and, as they need no housing, and simply winter at the strawstacks, they come through fairly well. In the homestead region further north, hay and water are abundant, we were told, for we only traversed a portion of it. All the way back via St. Albert, where we stayed over night, the features of soil and crop were the same—great fields of grain and comfortable homesteads in all directions, betokening successful industry.

Our next trip was to the Leduc district. Good water is plentiful in the wells, wood and hay are abundant, and the soil seems to be of good quality. The grain here was all very late, and we saw promising oats and barley, but not much wheat, but a little further, we were told, the country is more rolling, and grain growing more successful. But, upon the whole, we were not so favourably impressed with the region, though in after years its few drawbacks may disappear. The farmers we saw here were recent arrivals from North Dakota, and elsewhere, who lacked sufficient experience to speak positively about the district, and we did not care to spend more time in this

direction. On the 26th we made an excursion into the Fort Saskatchewan country, east of Edmonton, following the north bank of the river, and crossing over by ferry to the Fort, which is a nice little town of 320 inhabitants, with a flour and saw-mill and a detachment of mounted police—an admirably trained force which is scattered all over these Territories. A good deal of land is under cultivation on the north side, but much of it is still wild. Plenty of unsold railway land can be found here, but there is no homestead land untaken. The crops we saw were quite as good as at Sturgeon, and south of the Fort the land is more rolling, with crops of like quality and wells of good water drawn by homemade pumps which are in general use. Hay, too, seems in fair supply. Some 12 miles south of the Fort there are homestead lands, and at Agricola, where there is a post office, and a resident doctor bonused by the settlers, there is a good run of very rolling country, which held excellent grain and waters. We examined here the farm of James Porte, who had 65 acres under wheat, and estimated his yield this year at 40 bushels per acre, on land which had carried wheat for 12 years. Returning by Clover Bar we passed through a fine region with abundant crops, and, in fact, our whole trip lay through quite as good a wheat country as Sturgeon, with abundance of hay and plenty of water. With small exception, the whole Edmonton country is eminently inviting to the farmers, who are now pouring into it by the thousand. Its wheat ranks highly; its elevation—2,150 feet above sea level—ample rain and snowfall, warm summer days and cool nights combine to enrich the plant. The highest temperature occurred on 19th June last—94 in the shade—the lowest is about 57

above zero. There is very little snow in some winters, its average depth in others being 18 inches. The "Chinooks" are frequent, and sensibly mitigate the winter climate, and the blizzard is unknown. Much fine gold exists in the bars of the Saskatchewan, where it has been sluiced out with "grizzlies" for many years by the ordinary miners who make a precarious living, the mining season only lasting some three months, owing to mountain freshets. But expensive dredges are now placed on the river, one of which has cost \$40,000, and which will take up the pay-dirt from the bed of the stream all summer. It is thus a growing industry, the gold dust being distributed all the way down the river to Prince Albert and beyond. The whole region is also underlaid with coal of a good quality, which is mined at Edmonton, St. Albert and elsewhere, and sold to citizens and farmers who fill their wagons at the beds for a dollar a load, the cheapest fuel probably on the continent. This valuable feature must be borne in mind when we reflect on the agricultural future of this great region, for the coal is found all over, and often underlies the farmer's fields. It is thus not only a farming, but a mining country, and is the doorway and outlet as well to the vast north, which teems with mineral resources—the precious metals, copper, iron, petroleum, salt and sulphur—a region which will afford a great market to the farmers of North Alberta at no distant day.

As to facilities for securing land, the available homestead areas, with small exception, now lie far from town; and, in our opinion, it is wiser, until another railway penetrates the interior to purchase C.P.R. lands near by at \$3 an acre, with a fractional payment down and long terms for remain-

der, than to go off 40 miles and suffer from a lack of market. There are colonization lands conveniently near, but they are held at much higher prices. Half-breed scrips are also to be had at \$2 an acre, but they are of use only to the homesteader who wishes to buy adjacent land, saving thereby a dollar an acre. With regard to freights and markets, the C. P. R. wheat rate per cwt. to Fort William is 33 cents, being 10 cents more than from Manitoba. On the other hand, the yield per acre is greater here than there, and the great mining regions—the Kootenays, East and West—which now take an immense quantity of oats, &c., from Edmonton, owing to its proximity, equalize prices. The region, therefore, is not so heavily handicapped by eastern freight rates as might be supposed. Then, again, we American farmers in weighing the question of emigration must consider the points in favour of Western Canada in the matter of yield per acre, of taxation, and of the cost of land, as compared with our States. For example, in the famous Sioux, Osceola, O'Brient and Lyon counties in Iowa (called "The Big Four") the average yield of wheat varies from 14 to 20 bushels, of oats from 25 to 45 bushels, and of barley from 20 to 45, the current prices at the elevator being 55 to 60 cents, 18 to 20 cents, and 15 to 20 cents, respectively, free of commission and cost of haul for 500 miles to Chicago, which is 25 cents per 100 pounds for wheat and 25 cents for barley and oats. We may add, however, that for the last 4 or 5 years wheat has averaged from 60 to 70 cents, and oats from 20 to 25 cents per bushel, and in Kansas, oats have brought from 25 to 30 cents for local use.

Then, with regard to taxes: an average farm with us will pay over \$70, all our personalty being heavily taxed as well, whilst

the price of land is so high, and the land now in so few hands, that in the four typical counties named, one-half of the land is let at an average rental of \$3 per acre—the very sum for which the same tenant can buy the choicest wild land at present in the districts described. Such tenants are, in reality, the very men who are most interested in emigrating, and whom Canada is most desirous of getting, for the simple reason that they must be diligent and industrious or owners would not let them their lands, and, if they were not, they would be unable to pay their rents.

In closing this report we must refer to one or two points which have struck us forcibly. In the first place, in our long journey through Manitoba and the Territories, we have observed that the country is ahead of the towns, whilst with us the reverse is the case, "towns" being "boomed" everywhere away ahead of the country behind them. Then, again, the chartered banks of Canada establish their agencies at every country town of any importance, lend money to bona fide farmers at reasonable rates, and actually compete for business. In consequence the money-shark is here unknown. In the matter of public houses, too, not an unimportant feature of Canadian territorial life, the system differs entirely from ours. Instead of poison-dealing saloons being scattered all over the country, as with us, the retailing of liquors is confined to hotels, the houses being under strict inspection, and the sale restricted to pure liquors and, as much as possible, to proper hours. This may seem a small matter, but in reality it is important, for, in consequence, good and cheap hotel accommodation, with rare exceptions, everywhere prevails. A list of prices will not be out of place of farming implements, &c., in Edmonton, of both Canadian and

American make—prices which also apply to the Prince Albert and Dauphin regions, less difference in freight. Canadian-made implements sell at present at the following net prices :—Self-binders, \$145 ; mowers, 4½ ft., \$53 ; show-drill seeders (15 shoes), \$85 ; rakes, \$27 to \$30 ; disc harrows, \$33 ; 14-inch gang ploughs, \$75 ; 14-inch walking plough, \$18 ; brush-breaker, \$22 ; 16-inch sulky plough, \$55 ; wagons, \$73 to \$80 ; buckboards, \$50 up ; best Manilla binding twine, 11 cents per pound.—American implements (McCormick's make) sell, net, as follows :—Self-binders, \$170 ; mowers, 5 ft., \$60 ; rakes, 8 ft., \$30 ; 10 ft., \$40 ; seeder, 14 shoes, \$80 ; sulky plough, 14 inch, \$80 ; walking plough, 14 inch, \$20 ; brush breaker, \$28. Woollen clothing is cheaper than with us, and groceries generally somewhat higher. Granulated sugar sells 16 pounds for the dollar ; green coffee, 15 cents ; and teas, 25 cents to 50 cents ; and other supplies in proportion.

The region of large cattle ranches around Fort Macleod has not yet been visited by us, and will be the subject of a concluding brief report.

(Signed) GEORGE S. BENNETT,
Hall's Summit, Kan.

S. W. BENNETT,
Hall's Summit, Kan.

E. F. BROOKS,
Westphalia, Kan.

A. E. DOTY,
Harrison, Mich.

W. W. BURNETTE,
Harrison, Mich.

JAMES COMMON,
Danforth, Ill.

ARTHUR CLEAVE,
Danforth, Ill.

THE CENTRAL HOTEL,
VIRDEN, Man., 30th Aug., 1898.

To the Board of Trade:

DEAR SIR,—I am obliged to you for your kindness in driving me through the Pipestone district for two days.

I am very much pleased with the land, and intend taking up a quarter-section.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) LEWIS BATES.

THE CENTRAL HOTEL,
VIRDEN, Man., 31st Aug., 1898.

To the Board of Trade :

GENTLEMEN,—We, the undersigned, have been very much gratified with the place, generally speaking. First of all, the towns along the C. P. R. are lovely. We were very much taken with the country, especially with South Reston. The proof that we mean what we say is that we have taken land. As Christian men we wish the welfare of every young man. We believe that a young man that wishes to be a farmer cannot do any better than take land in South Reston. The soil is fit to raise wheat or stock.

We remain your faithful servants,

(Signed) A. B. GROULX.

O. GROULX.

EDMONTON, ALTA.,

31st August, 1898.

WILLIAM F. MCCREARY, Esq.,
Immigration Commissioner,
Winnipeg, Man.

DEAR SIR,—We, the undersigned delegates, who have been looking over the farming district of Northern Alberta, beg to state that we have found the soil very productive, as

is attested by the magnificent crops of wheat and barley to be seen on every hand. In a drive of fifty miles in a round-about country trip, from Edmonton to Fort Saskatchewan, and return, on the south side of the river, we really failed to see a poor piece of grain, while bountiful crops were to be seen on every side.

We also took a drive out to St. Albert and vicinity, and splendid crops were in evidence everywhere, the picture could scarcely be overdrawn. From what we have seen in over two days' drive, we have come to the conclusion that the country far exceeds, in every iota, what is claimed for it in the Government and C. P. R. pamphlets.

We are now satisfied to go back and sell out and make Alberta our future home and go into mixed farming. Cattle, hogs and sheep do well, and bring a good price. We are more than pleased with the richness of the country, and strongly recommend our friends and acquaintances to come to Alberta.

(Signed) P. E. BARLEY, Michigan.

J. BURRIDGE, Iowa.

WINNIPEG, MAN.,

3rd September, 1898.

WILLIAM F. McCREARY, Esq.,
Immigration Commissioner,
Winnipeg, Man.

SIR,—Our concluding report refers to the South Alberta ranching country, a region which resembles, in some respects, the Medicine Hat district, described in our previous report. In South Alberta, however, cattle-raising has been conducted on a much more extensive scale, the Cochrane and Waldron ranches carrying from 12,000 to 15,000 head

each, the Oxley and Alberta some 10,000, the Brown 3,000, and numbers of smaller companies about 2,000 each. Individual owners carry from 100 to 1,500 head, the industry being now thoroughly established, and on a profitable footing all round. That the industry has been gone into successfully in some instances without much means is shown by the fact that numbers of ex-mounted policemen and others, who, twelve years ago, had a hard struggle to make a start are now in a fair way to independence. Yet this fact must not be accepted as a criterion, since it is generally admitted that the ranching region of South Alberta is not a poor man's country. Exceptional opportunities and good luck have helped energetic men to success in the past, and may help others in the future. Yet the fact remains that a capital of from \$4,000 to \$5,000 is essential, at the start, to give the rancher a fair prospect of success. The present advancing prices, should they hold, would, of course, increase his chances, and, under such circumstances, we do not know a region into which we should more unhesitatingly direct our friends who have capital, and who wish to raise stock. But, notwithstanding the fact that grain growing in this region has been, and must always be subsidiary to stock raising, there is still a reasonable prospect that, by a widely-applied system of irrigation, much of the country may become grain-producing, and that poultry raising, and even dairying may prove to be profitable hereafter. It is in view of this, perhaps, that the cattlemen exhibit no hostility to the homesteader, who can enter anywhere, certain reasonable rights of access to water, &c., being justly reserved to the cattlemen. Between Calgary and High River, and in Lethbridge and Pincher Creek, a great deal

of money has been invested already in irrigation by companies and individuals, and there is much good soil of a loamy character along the bottoms, east and south of Macleod, and at Pincher Creek, where farming by irrigation is carried on with more or less success. The Cardston country is of this character, and with irrigation would yield wheat. But a considerable portion of the ranching country consists of a marl or stiff clay, largely intermixed up to the surface with gravel and pebbles; well suited for grazing, for it bears a most nutritious grass, but which irrigation itself would scarcely make grain-producing, though, of course, it is wonderful what an abundance of moisture will do on any soil. It must be understood, however, that irrigation does not prevent frost; and when we speak of grain growing in this region we must state strongly our opinion that it must be carried on in connection with stock raising and, hereafter perhaps, with poultry rearing and dairying, for all of which purposes it really does not matter very much whether the grain is frost-bitten or not. If it ripens, so much the better; if not, it is still essential and valuable.

Under such conditions, then, we perceive that a system of mixed farming of this sort has made, and will continue to make, a successful stand in South Alberta. So far, the grain grown is mainly oats, which for ten years past have brought 40 cents per bushel on the spot; nor has this price been affected by the railway, which has been running for six years. In fact, so long as cattle requirements exist, good prices will probably hold. The large cattlemen must inevitably give way to small ranchers, and these will, as much as possible, aid their main industry by other means. That dairying, through ir-

rigation, may become a considerable industry is not at all unlikely; and, as a dead animal, for example, in summer on these plains, and in this unrivalled atmosphere, decays without taint, the products ought to have the best keeping qualities imaginable. Poultry, properly cared for, certainly do well. We examined the elaborate poultry ranch of Mr. Genge, a few miles from Macleod, and never saw finer ducks, geese, &c., than we saw there. But we must honestly add that Mr. Genge's place is exceptionally suited to such an industry, and the standing crop in the neighbourhood did not show up as well as his thriving fowls. It must be borne in mind that irrigation is a costly process. There is no scarcity of water; the whole country, in fact, could be irrigated from existing sources. Yet it costs money, and, therefore, the grain products of the region could scarcely compete with the wheat of non-irrigating districts.

We believe that we have now concisely, but accurately, set forth the real conditions of success in Southern Alberta. It is blest with a comparatively mild winter, pure air and pure water, which are all of great importance to stock, and nowhere are finer animals to be seen than we beheld there. By irrigation, a system of mixed farming, in conjunction with stock raising, is arising, which will hold its own whether grain ripens or not. To our countrymen with means we can safely recommend it. But many of our tenant farmers in the States are men of small means, and such we would not, at present, advise to go to South Alberta. We have now travelled over 3,000 miles by rail and nearly 700 miles by wagon through the Canadian West, under the guidance of Mr. Mair, and have so seen its two great sections as to have a distinct idea of their respective ad-

vantages. Roughly speaking, the whole country falls naturally into two well-defined divisions—Manitoba and, westward to Moosejaw, and the great Saskatchewan country to the north on the one hand, and the Great Plains to the south, on the other. In the former, a rich loam overspreads the country almost throughout. In vast districts, wood, water and hay are found in conjunction with rich soil, and the rainfall is generally adequate to the farmer's needs. But, on the other hand, with some exceptions, the winters are as severe as in Minnesota and Dakota, and cattle must be housed. The other, or "Great Plains" country consists of soils such as we have described, is almost treeless, and hay is scarce, though the grazing is good. The winters, modified by "Chinook winds," are comparatively free from snow, so that cattle can feed out all winter, with little risk, save in a season of exceptional severity. In the one great division of the country with an ordinary location, the poor but industrious family is certain of success; in the other it is not. As we are reporting for the benefit of our people of small means, in a word, for our tenant farmer class, we would unhesitatingly say, "Go to the north,"—to Northern Manitoba or the North Saskatchewan country. It would be invidious on our part to indicate any particular locality in these great regions as better suited to our people than others. We have described the most important of them in our previous reports. Each section has its own advantages, but all are good. To the man of means, on the other hand, the "Great Plains" offer counter attractions of a substantial kind.

In conclusion, we can assure our countrymen, upon our return, that they will find in Western Canada a friendly people of like

race sympathies and language to ourselves, existing under a system of Government equal in every respect and, in some respects, as we have pointed out in previous reports, superior to our own; a people ready to fully extend the privileges which they enjoy to ourselves. We need not dwell upon these matters, but shall conclude by tendering our grateful thanks to the Canadian Government for their invitation to examine the country, to yourself who have facilitated, in every way, our extensive inquiry, and to Mr. Mair, for the care and judgment with which he has guided the party throughout.

.(Signed) GEORGE S. BENNETT,
Hall's Summit, Kan.

S. W. BENNETT,
Hall's Summit, Kan.

E. F. BROOKS,
Westphalia, Kan.

A. E. DOTY,
Harrison, Mich.

W. W. BURNETTE,
Harrison, Mich.

BALMORAL HOTEL,

VIRDEN, MAN., 5th Sept., 1898.

To the Board of Trade :

DEAR SIRs,—I am very much obliged to you for driving me through the country for one day.

I am very much pleased with the country and intend to take up a half section and induce my friends to do likewise.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) K. SPECHT.

ALBERTA HOTEL,
EDMONTON, ALTA., 13th Sept., 1898.

Editor *Herald*, Burr Oak, Kan. :

DEAR SIR,—I came up here from Burr Oak, Kansas, U.S., to see this country, and I beg leave to submit the following :—

1st. I find the English a very sociable and courteous class of people. They make their own laws here about the same as we do in the States. A very mild climate in the summer, and from the looks of the people, a very healthy one. I have been here almost a week, and I saw but one sickly looking man since I crossed the line. Their soil is a rich black loam—wheat, oats and barley are the staple products of the farm; and the large elevators are an index to both quality and quantity raised.

A fine grazing country. I saw nicer cattle and horses on the range than I saw any place this side of St. Paul, Minn. And sheep, I never saw the equal in any of our Western States.

They have about 5 hours longer daylight in the long summer days than we have, which gives them almost as much daylight in 3 months to grow a crop as we have in 4.

Wood and coal in abundance. Coal \$1.50 per ton.

All the tax the farmers have is school tax, which encourages education very much. They have Indian schools the same as we have.

The contented condition of the people shows the prosperity of the country. And at the present rate of immigration homestead entries will soon be a thing of the past. The nearest of any now to Edmonton is 16 miles. Railroad land around Edmonton can be had for \$4 per acre. The country is just new, and from the appearance, when its resources are fully developed, will make a

very rich country. There are quite a good many of our people here from the States. Hotel accommodations are excellent, at nominal rates.

I am offered transportation to Klondike, but I declined the offer. I am as near as I care to go. There are some 15 in town tonight, and I only learned of two going back again. When I was in the Osark Mountains, 75 miles from the railroad, it seemed further from home than it does here, although I am five times as far.

With best wishes to all.

I remain, yours respectfully,

(Signed) H. E. FAIDLEY.

WINNIPEG, MAN., 15th Sept., 1898.

WILLIAM F. MCCREARY, Esq.,
Immigration Commissioner,
Winnipeg, Man.

SIR.—Being desirous of visiting Western Canada with a view to emigrating, and promoting emigration, from our respective localities in the United States, we gladly accepted an invitation to do so from the Canadian authorities, and arriving in Winnipeg on the 9th instant, left the following morning with Mr. Mair, for Yorkton, the present terminus of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway. Our party consisted of A. T. McFee, of Kent, Thomas Howie, of Prescott, and John Church, of Menville, in the State of Iowa, H. W. Miles, of Melvern, Kansas, and Wm. G. and W. M. Finlay and W. F. Birdsong, of Tescumbia, Missouri, the foregoing places in our respective States being our post office addresses. Our principal object being to see the region contributory to Yorkton, we did not stop over on the way; yet we may say here that the districts beyond the

famous Portage Plains, such as Gladstone, Neepawa, Minnedosa, &c., in fact all the country up to the second prairie level, viewed from the train, seem very fine and are already well settled. The evidences of successful husbandry in continuous fields of wheat and small grain, mostly in the stook, were manifest in all directions, and the beautiful natural features of the country strongly tempted us to a closer examination.

Onwards, on the second step, the country is rolling, and cattle are numerous, a feature which, until night-fall, became more marked as we advanced. Yorkton was not reached until after 3 o'clock a.m., the train being a mixed one, and discharging freight at every station. We found the town overcrowded with immigrants, visitors and sportsmen, not a room being available in any of the hotels, so that we had to make shift in the passenger car until morning. Immediate arrangements were then made by Mr. Crerar for our drives through the district. Before setting out, however, we visited the "Creamery" in town a highly important adjunct to the rapidly growing dairying interest of the region, and which is run by the Dominion Government. At other factories the milk is brought in by the patrons, but at Yorkton the employees send round and collect cream only from the settlers, going as far as 25 miles for it. The settlers have generally supplied themselves with English "hand separators," made under a Danish patent, costing from \$60 up, but several farmers now run their machines with small gasoline engines at a nominal expense. The respective creams are carefully tested at the factory, and strengths noted; the butter is then made every morning by a scrupulously clean process, and is shipped by the Government mainly to British Columbia. After deduct-



ing cost of making, packing and marketing, amounting to 4 cents per lb. of butter, the net proceeds are divided monthly, *pro rata*, amongst the farmers who contribute the cream. The output at the Yorkton creamery under this admirable system, which is ahead of anything known to us in our States, was, last year, 50,000 lbs. of first-class butter, which finds an immediate market, and the benefit of the institution in stimulating dairying is very great. One farmer's wife, for example, received, in a single season, over \$400 in cash for her cream. The milk is, of course, fed warm to the calves as it comes from the separator.

Our first drive was to the Wallace district, east of Yorkton. For a few miles out the soil resembles that in the neighbourhood of Winnipeg, as it does also to the north and south of the town, though somewhat lighter, as the plough scours readily. Towards Wallace it is a sandy loam resting upon a light, yellowish clay, mixed with finely comminuted limestone, and the crops we saw here gave evidence of its quality. There is a good deal of homestead land available in this quarter, and, to the south of the railway line, lies Township 25, Range 6, another fine region, sandwiched, roughly speaking, by two extensive coulees lying between Insinger and the heads of Silver Creek, where the soil is excellent, and thousands of acres are open for entry. Railway lands are also to be had at an upset price of \$3 per acre, and there are also lands of the Yorkton Colonization Company for sale, but these are held at a higher price. Besides these, there are cancelled pre-emptions, and, here and there, occupiers who are willing to sell or rent improved lands with buildings at reasonable rates.

Our next journey lay to the north-west crossing the eastern spur of the Beaver Hills, and on to "Theodore," returning by way of the White Sand River and the German settlement of Ebenezer to Yorkton. The Beaver Hills, where we crossed them, is a very good country, more rolling, of course, than elsewhere, with plentiful prairies, yet abundantly timbered with aspen, large enough for fuel and rails. In the main range of the hills, however, there is a dense forest, some hundred miles in length and forty in breadth, where there is much large poplar fit for sawing into lumber, and which will be a great boon to settlers in the future if spared from fire. The soil, too, of the hills is excellent, and of the limy nature which characterises so much of this country.

At Theodore, which we reached in the evening, we came to the extensive farm of Mr. Seeman, an Englishman, who lives in England, but who has invested largely in this region. His three sections are wire-fenced, the central one being devoted to grain growing, all the appliances thereto being on an extensive scale. His windmill draws an inexhaustible supply of pure water from a well 100 feet deep, saws firewood and chops grain. The machinery, including a steam thresher, is of the best make, the byres, stables, &c., of substantial build. This farm is at present rented on shares by a Mr. Osborne, who came from the States last March, and who had this season 140 acres in wheat and 200 in oats. Owing to the repressive spring and dry June, the great heat in July and the bad weather of the latter part of August, here, as in some other parts of Canada, the yield has suffered, and his wheat was still in the stook and about 18 acres of oats still uncut. The wheat, though



discoloured by the weather, was uninjured by frost, as also the oats in stook, but those uncut were rather badly touched. The yield of the former will be about 18 to 20 bushels to the acre, of the latter about 40, and this may be taken as a fair criterion of this season's crop condition in this neighbourhood. Notwithstanding the unusual weather, the return is a fair one, though not comparable with last year's yield, which, in many parts of the Yorkton district ran up to 40 bushels of wheat, and 100, and over, of oats. The following day our course lay eastward for ten or twelve miles along the White Sand River. The surface soil along this stream is light, but, resting upon yellow clay, is productive, and a string of settlement follows the river for miles. There are no finer vegetables than those grown in the well-kept gardens we saw here. Indian corn looked well, and the sugar beets were of the best quality, and gave promise, perhaps, of a great future industry. This light land runs down to the Carson ranch, but gives way to heavy soil as we pass on to Ebenezer. Here a large number of poor Germans settled some years ago, who are now in excellent shape, with good crops and large herds of cattle. There are Danes, too, and Orkney-men who have colonized in other parts, and are doing well, and, latterly, Galicians have come, a people who seem, in many parts, likely to supply needful domestic servants. We saw young people of both sexes satisfactorily employed in various Canadian homes. The principal occupants of the land are, of course, British Canadians, and people from the British Islands, not forgetting a good sprinkling of Americans. All told, the inhabitants of the Yorkton region are, as yet, but a drop compared with the wave of immigration which it will yet receive. The

chief employment is cattle raising, an industry which has increased in six years from 5,000 to 25,000 head, not to speak of sheep, which thrive wonderfully, and are increasing fast. The cattle raised here are the finest we have ever seen, and not less than 5,000 fat beasts will be carried out of this district by the railway this year. These are almost entirely three-year-olds, which, fed upon the prairie, and upon prairie hay in winter, run up to 1,600 or 1,700 pounds, live weight. At present, animals over twelve hundred weight bring $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound, and three-year-old steers are worth, on an average, \$50, with ready sale. These cattle are hurried to Montreal for shipment to Great Britain, being prime animals, equal in every respect to the best English and, so alive are the railway authorities to the importance of this trade, that the cattle trains on the C. P. R. travel at the highest speed, even the passenger expresses giving way to them. But cattle are sent into, as well as out of, this region. They are sent up in the fall from the south in poor condition, to be wintered and fattened here—a significant fact. There are no very large herds in the region, farmers holding from 50 to 400 head. Every one is more or less connected with the industry, and grain growing is largely carried on in connection with it. As the ranges, through homesteading, become limited, the cattle-raisers will go north, where, we were assured, there is a vast region with even better resources for stock raising than are found here. Indeed, we ourselves saw a band of 700 magnificently fat cattle which had been driven down from the Prince Albert region, some 250 miles off, and which were intended for immediate shipment to England. Meanwhile, hay is in fair supply throughout the country generally, and many

farmers, in addition to their own cattle, winter for others at \$5.50 a head. Grain growing is, of course, an increasing industry, and the time may come when cattle in the immediate district must be largely straw-fed in winter. Indeed, we were told of one man, a Mr. Nixon, five miles from Strathclair, below Yorkton, who fed, last winter, 125 head of cattle off 200 acres of oats. Forty acres he threshed, the remainder, cut on the green side, he fed twice a day, a sheaf at a meal, and the threshed straw as well, but no hay. The cattle came out in excellent condition in the spring.

Homesteading in the region described will go on as it has in our own States, and grain growing, in time, will limit the ranges of cattle, for the conditions of soil and climate fairly suit mixed farming. There is occasional danger of frost, no doubt, and the soil generally is not the heaviest. But its limy quality makes it very productive, and grain growing is a success, as we have seen, even in an adverse season. This being the case, a fair head of stock can be maintained on a limited pasture; dairying and poultry-raising can be developed to any extent, and good livings and independence be reached by all who strive for them in this country. The amount of capital required is from \$500 to \$1,000. This is the conclusion we have reached after careful observation and inquiry, and we shall not hesitate to recommend the region to intending emigrants from our own States.

As regards rates of living, we have found the customary Canadian dollar-a-day hotel in this region furnishing as good meals and, where not overcrowded, as good accommodation as can be found in our own States at the price. Lumber is comparatively high-priced at Yorkton owing to the absence of spruce

forests in the region, and the consequent long haul. Rough lumber sells at \$20 a thousand; but farm machinery and household supplies are reasonable in price, and taxes are so low as scarcely to be felt. School houses, throughout our trip, came in sight wherever there were settlers' homes, and we found that schools were carried on where there were but six children in attendance, though ten, we believe, are required to entitle a school to the full grant of 70 per cent. Good government is as perfectly preserved as in any other part of Canada. There are no tramps or vagrants here, and the friendly spirit of Canadians towards our people is as marked as their attachment to their own political system, which, to our mind, is one of perfect freedom, combined with the utmost justice and order.

(Signed) WILLIAM G. FINDLAY,
Tuscumbia, Miller Co., Mo.

WILLIAM M. FINDLAY,
Tuscumbia, Miller Co., Mo.

W. F. BIRDSONG,
Tuscumbia, Miller Co., Mo.

H. W. MILES,
Melvern, Kansas.

JOHN CHURCH,
Merville, Iowa.

A. T. McFEE, ²
Kent P.O., Iowa

THOS. HOWIE,
Prescott, Iowa

CALGARY, ALTA.,

23rd September, 1898.

WILLIAM F. MCCREARY, Esq.,
Immigration Commissioner,
Winnipeg, Man.

SIR,—We, the undersigned delegates from Missouri and Kansas, being members of the party which recently visited the Yorkton district, and reported to you thereon, were desirous of viewing the country westward through Manitoba to Edmonton before returning to the States. By your courtesy we were enabled to do so, and, having been joined in Winnipeg by Mr. Lincoln Nissley, of Los Angeles, California, we proceeded to Brandon, in charge of Mr. Mair.

The following day we visited the Experimental Farm, and found it all that had been reported—an institution evidently prosperous and of great benefit to the country at large. We visited parts of the farming district the same day, as yet devoted mainly to wheat culture, and then went on to Virden, and examined a portion of the adjacent country, with which we were much struck as being typical of the great grain-producing region of Southern Manitoba. We dropped here two of our number for the purpose of examining the country to the south where, we were informed, a great many cancelled pre-emptions are about to be thrown open for homestead entry, and, as we may make a closer inspection of this region ourselves hereafter, we shall add nothing further here.

Arriving at Calgary, we left shortly afterwards for the north, reaching Edmonton the same evening. All along the line we found a series of small, but neat, growing towns, evidently full of business, and with country back of them of a good character, where wheat and other grains have been grown for

some years, and where cattle-raising is also increasing rapidly. Judging by what we saw from the train, the greater part of the district passed through promises well, and it is, indeed, surprising what progress has been made in so short a time.

At Edmonton the weather broke up, and we were greatly hindered by rain in our examination of the country. Nevertheless, we saw a great deal of it, and particularly of the Rivière Qui Barre district to the northwest, known locally as "The Kansas Settlement," whose soil and other physical features we noted carefully. For some miles from town, as far, in fact, as St. Albert, the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church here—the country is rather thickly wooded; but we passed, as well, numerous open prairies and many fine farms and buildings. Towards Carrot Creek, also, the land is more or less wooded; but, beyond that it opens into a vast plain country intersected by the Rivière Qui Barre. It is needless to expatiate upon the soil of this region. It is everywhere a rich, black, vegetable humus from one to two and, in some places, even six feet in depth, resting upon clay. There is not, we believe, in any of our States a finer soil than this. Its area is extensive, meagre portions of two or three townships only being, as yet settled. These settlers are mainly French and Irish families from Kansas, and all spoke highly of their land, and of their generally good crops. The drought of this year, however, seems to have specially affected this particular district, and has told upon the yield. Yet late oats is the only grain touched with frost, though in some instances severely. The general average, nevertheless, is fair, wheat running to 25 and oats to about 40 bushels per acre. Last year 50 bushels of wheat and 108 of oats were, in

many parts, returned by this marvellous soil. Mr. Granger, of Kansas, was the first settler in township 55, range 27, and has done well and, judging by his generous dinner table, lives in luxury. Mr. Cyr, another Kansas immigrant, came with his family shortly afterwards, his belongings being 3 horses, a wagon, harness and two ploughs. He has now 80 acres fenced and half-broken, and would not sell out, he said, for \$1,500. Mr. Poirier, from Clay County, Kansas, had about \$1,000 in effects of all kinds when he came, and has now 90 acres under cultivation, and rates his belongings at fully \$2,500. Such is the general condition, we believe, of the 25 or 30 families who, descended from the original French settlers of Kankakee, Illinois, and, emigrating to Kansas in its early days, farmed in that State for many years before coming here. The Irish are in still better shape. We returned through their quarter, and spent some time at Mr. Ryan's farm, which is typical of the rest. He has some 700 acres of land, about one-third of which is cultivated, and has had phenomenal returns in past seasons, and a fair one in this. He was ploughing his summer-fallow with four-horse gang-ploughs when we visited him, and the soil, almost greasy in its richness, and as black as ink, scoured perfectly. Mr. Ryan came here some years ago and began farming, and then threw it up and returned to Kansas. But he soon came back, and his condition today is as we have shown. A batch of settlers came back with him, loading with their effects nineteen cars in all, forming a special train, which left Washington County, Kansas, and came clean through to Edmonton at a charge of \$135 per car. One man travelled free with each car, in charge of live stock, and the others' tickets cost \$35 each.

This seems to us a very sensible and economical way of moving into this country, and we commend it to intending emigrants from our States. Mr. Ryan's well is a sample of the way in which good water is found in this district. At from about 18 to 35 feet, water is found everywhere, which is not really unwholesome, but much of the country, at a certain depth, being impregnated with coal, it "tastes." By deep-sinking, Mr. Ryan has secured an unfailing supply of excellent quality. Egg and Sandy Lakes are considerable bodies of water in this district, which are stocked with fish, and forests of spruce and tamarack exist near by. There is a plentiful supply of these woods a few miles from the settlements, and the farmers, by hauling the logs home, can have them cut there by a portable mill at \$4 per thousand. A creamery, we think, would prosper here. One of the settlers now milks 11 cows, and is netting \$2 a day from cheese alone. Eight pounds of milk here make one pound of cheese, whilst, he said, it took 9½ pounds where he came from in Kansas. Sheep, pigs and poultry thrive, though, of course, they are not plentiful as yet, and horned cattle are mainly carried through on straw, requiring no shelter in winter save the stacks upon which they feed. Wild hay is not abundant, and this region is therefore more suitable for mixed farming than for the large stock-raiser. Three-year-old steers, weighing about 1,200 pounds, bring about \$35 and other cattle in proportion, and horses winter out, and bring a fair price. Coal is near and abundant, and costs only a dollar per wagon-load at the seams. In fact, the whole country is underlaid with it, so that the supply of fuel is practically inexhaustible. There is plenty of small timber, however, for rails and firewood, when required. Wild berries of the usual kinds

are plentiful, and vegetables and potatoes are of the best quality. Homestead lands are, of course, all taken up in settled parts. The nearest are some seven miles beyond Mr. Granger's, towards Sandy Lake. In township 57, range 27, for example, no homesteads have yet been taken, though the land is just as good as it is elsewhere, and timber is abundant. Of course, railway lands (held at \$3 an acre) are to be had all over this region, and, with very liberal terms of payment, are desirable through location or otherwise. Their purchase may be better than homesteading, if one prefers to live within existing settlements and to be nearer to market than he would be otherwise. This is a matter to be determined by the immigrant himself; and, as no one is likely to settle upon the land he has not seen, it will best be determined on the spot. The chief drawback of this region is, of course, its distance from Edmonton and its markets. When projected railways are pushed on, this objection will disappear and, with it, all that we can say against the country as a farming region. The soil is simply perfect; the abundance of coal is a great security, and, if a railway is ever built through to the Mackenzie River, developing the mining interests of that vast country, the rich farming lands north of Edmonton will be the first to benefit. To men with moderate means, say \$1,000, and who do not object to living for a few years in expectation of railways (which are certain to come) or amidst surroundings, for the present, of a primitive character, we can honestly and heartily recommend this region as one of the best we have ever seen. To others, the nearer and settled parts of Manitoba will be more attractive on account of markets and those appliances of civilization which, in our States, have become customary. But

it must be borne in mind that, where homesteads and railway lands are not to be had in Manitoba, the immigrant must purchase improved, or speculators' lands, at long figures; and we must also point out that the present occupants of Manitoba were, themselves, not so long ago, remote from markets, and denied the institutions and appliances of civilization to a greater degree than the present settlers north of Edmonton. It is not our intention to recommend one district over another. Our object is to describe accurately and fairly the superficial features and existing economies of such as we have seen. We have now examined a portion of the east and of the far western country north of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and we are convinced, not only from what we have beheld, but from all that we have heard, that there is no considerable area in Western Canada which cannot be turned to profitable account, or which is entirely unfit for settlement. The winter climate is milder than that of Manitoba, though "cold snaps" are frequent. But the season is dry and healthy, and we never saw a more robust and vigorous people than those who have lived in it for years. They compare favourably with ourselves in this and in some other respects, and all we can say, in conclusion, is that if intending emigrants from our States bring with them the energy and industry and the respect for law and order which everywhere prevail in Western Canada, they are, in our opinion, certain to succeed.

(Signed) WILLIAM G. FINDLAY,
Tuscumbia, Miller Co., Mo.

LINCOLN NISSLEY,
Los Angeles, California.

H. W. NILES,
Melvern, Kansas.

THE CENTRAL HOTEL,
VIRDEN, MAN., 26th Sept., 1898.

To the Board of Trade, Virden, Man. :

GENTLEMEN,—Through the courtesy of your honourable board we visited the country to the south-west of Virden, particularly that portion lying along the railroad extension from Reston west.

We reached Mr. Mann's camp' on Section 16, Range 29, Township 7, and situated on Jackson Creek, here we put up for the night, and must say that we were also very comfortable and highly entertained by the commissary department. Mr. Mann and also Mr. Lamb, the engineer in charge, furnished us with reliable information in regard to the line stakes and stations on the surveyed line to the west of their camp and we found no difficulty in tracing out the section lines and finding the Government mounds and corners. We found no indications of any of the homestead lands being taken, and we saw a number of good locations, both homestead and railroad land, quite near and directly on the line of the railway. We explored the two townships directly west of the camp, and returning visited the French farmers located two miles south of the line in Township 7, Range 31 W. Here we saw very fine wheat, and the soil is a black loam, but a little stony. We found all along the line numerous depressions or hollows with good hay, and we may add here that the whole county is a good range for stock.

Water was abundant in all the streams.

(Signed) LINCOLN NISSLEY,

WILLIAM G. FINDLAY,

H. W. NILES,

Kansas.

THE GREAT CANADIAN NORTH-WESTERN TERRITORIES.

BENJAMIN DAVIES, C.G.A.,
• St. Paul, Minn.

DEAR SIR,—The following is a complete and true report of our examinations of the Canadian North-western Territories :—

We crossed the international boundary line at Gretna, Manitoba. The first 35 miles is a fine grain growing country. Then we came to low meadow lands which extend nearly to Winnipeg. Winnipeg is the metropolis of the Canadian North-western Territories, and is a fine growing city of nearly 50,000 inhabitants and has a great future as a wholesale distributing point. Going west over the Canadian Pacific Railway the first 20 miles is low meadow land where lots of hay is cut annually for the Winnipeg market. After passing the meadow lands we came to a fine farming country in the vicinity of Portage la Prairie and Brandon. This farming country extends west to Moose Jaw. After passing Moose Jaw we came into a fine grazing country where were the finest cattle we ever saw in the world. This grazing country extends west to Calgary and south to the international boundary line and north to Olds on the C. & E. R. R. At Olds we came into the dairy and mixed farming country. The Canadian Government has built creameries at different stations, which gives the farmers a good market for their cream. In the vicinity of Olds, Government lands can still be had in five miles of the railroad, and railroad lands can be had near the railroad for \$3 per acre, on long time and low interest. At Bowden we met H. F. Powell, an old Minnesota man, who has lived there six years and is well pleased with his location. Mr. Powell says he can

locate a good many homesteads in four to six miles from the station, and nearly all the railroad lands are still for sale. Innisfail is a very prosperous village with a happy and contented people. Homesteads can still be had near this thriving village. Red Deer is where the train stops for dinner. It has a good hotel, flour mills, saw-mills, and a creamery, and is a good point for intending settlers to look over as there are still homestead lands within 10 to 15 miles, and railroad lands near town. Going north we soon came to the beautiful town of Lacombe, where a great many Michigan people have settled, and all think they are in the best country in the world. The next town of importance is Wetaskiwin, the largest town on the C. & E. R. R., between Calgary and Edmonton. Here you come into a fine farming country with good soil, plenty of timber and good water. There is a large Scandinavian settlement to the east, and a German settlement to the west. Here we consider is a good point for people seeking homesteads. By going east you can find homesteads in 18 to 20 miles, and the railroad company will surely run a branch from here east as soon as the country is settled up enough to justify building it. Going north we came to Leduc, where there is still homestead lands within 10 to 15 miles. Here the Michigan people are flocking in by car-loads. Edmonton is located on the banks of the Saskatchewan River, and has a population of nearly 5,000. It is the outfilling point for the Hudson Bay Company, who has trading posts clear through to the Arctic Ocean. It is the centre of as fine a farming country as there is on the American continent. The business men are all doing a thriving business, having sold nearly one and a half million dollars worth of goods in the past year.

At Edmonton we took teams and drove out among the farmers. We went north-east to the Sturgeon River settlement. The first day we had dinner with Mr. J. A. Rye, a farmer who lives on Section 7, Township 55, Range 23. He came from the province of New Brunswick. Has lived on his farm six years. He never had a failure in crops, and his wheat has averaged from 30 to 45 bushels per acre ; his oats from 70 to 100 bushels; barley from 50 to 70 bushels, and potatoes were always good. Alexander Cameron, who lives on Section 18, same town, tells us a similar story. Louie Jumbo lives on Section 12, Township 55, Range 23. This is near old Fort Saskatchewan. He has lived there 19 years and never had a crop failure, and never raised less than 30 bushels of wheat to the acre, and some years he got 50 bushels. We crossed the Saskatchewan River at the Fort, and went south and met Mr. Cunningham, from North Dakota, who has lived on his farm three miles south of Fort Saskatchewan for six years. Mr. Cunningham said last year : " My wheat averaged 39 bushels per acre, and I sold it for 70 cents. I have not threshed yet, but my wheat will average more than it did last year." We asked Mr. Cunningham if he liked it better here than North Dakota ; he said, this is the best country I ever saw. Mr. Cunningham, please give some of your reasons for liking this country so well ? " In the first place it is the best soil I ever saw. We never have had a crop failure ; our horses can run out doors all winter and come out fat in the spring ; our cattle can do the same, but I consider it inhuman to let my cattle run out in the storms, and I have shelters for my cattle. We can have good beef every month in the year without feeding grain ; the grass keeps all kinds of

stock fat the year round." We talked with at least 50 different farmers, some from Ontario, some from North Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan and Montana, and they all told the same story that wheat averaged from 30 to 50 bushels per acre, oats from 70 to 100 bushels, barley from 50 to 70, and potatoes from 400 to 800 bushels. The soil in the Edmonton district is a black loam from 2 to 4 feet deep, and a clay subsoil. The land is all good; plenty of timber for building and fire wood, and plenty of coal along the Saskatchewan and Sturgeon rivers, and can be had at the mines for \$1 per load. The water is good. We consider the Edmonton land district as good for farming as any country we ever seen. Homesteads can be had in 20 to 30 miles of Edmonton, and railroad lands within 8 miles.

Summer Frosts. — You ask the farmers around Edmonton if they ever had a summer frost to kill their grain and they will laugh at you. They will tell you if you want to raise good crops to have your land all ploughed, disked and harrowed in the fall, and as soon as possible in the spring put the drill to work and you are sure of a good crop. Drills are universally used; the McCormick harvester is sold at Edmonton, also the Deering; the John Deere plough, the Moline plough and the Norwegian plough that we see; perhaps other makes of American farm machinery is sold there that we did not see. The farmers are all contented and happy, with their granaries full of grain and plenty of fat cattle, sheep and hogs, and a good market at their doors for everything they have for sale, and plenty of wood and coal for the hauling, and very low taxes, and the Canadian Government doing everything they can for their people, and no chattel mortgages or seed grain notes to

worry them. We cannot see any reason why the Canadian farmer should not be perfectly happy and contented. We will join them just as soon as we can arrange our business. We have no hesitation in recommending the country around Edmonton and along the Calgary and Edmonton Railway to our friends. Any one that will work can do well in this new country. It is settling up very fast, with an energetic and enterprising people from Ontario and nearly all the Western States. The people received us in a very cordial manner at every place we visited, and we had a most delightful journey while examining the country. The people are all kind and generous to strangers, and are very anxious for Americans to come and settle among them. There is no tramps or beggars in Canada. No one can imagine the extent and resources of the great Canadian North-western Territories until they look them over.

Yours truly,

L. A. PADDOCK, *Delegate*,
Wadena, Wadena Co., Minn.

ADAM AICHER, *Delegate*,
Hewitt, Todd Co., Minn.

WADENA, MINN., 27th Sept., 1898.

REPORT OF FRENCH DELEGATION.

BENJAMIN DAVIES, Esq.,
St. Paul, Minn.

DEAR SIR,—We left on the 2nd day of August for the North-west Territories; we reached Winnipeg on the 23rd and then went to St. Eustache. We saw some nice farming lands and good cattle. Grain was mostly all cut. We then went to Calgary and stopped there two days; it is a very nice

town, nice farm lands 16 miles from Calgary. Farmers seem to be all well off. On the 29th we left Edmonton. North Edmonton is a nice town, and the Saskatchewan River at Edmonton is a very nice river, and a number of coal mines along the banks of the river. Fuel is very cheap. We then drove to Beaver Lake to look at some homesteads. There is very good farming lands at Beaver Lake, and plenty of wood and good water, and plenty of hay. The finest cattle we ever saw are there; the Buffalo grass cannot be beat for raising cattle, horses and sheep. The grain was mostly all cut, and looked very good. We took up ten homesteads at Beaver Creek for ourselves and friends. We then returned to Edmonton and left for St. Paul on the 6th day of September, and arrived at St. Paul on the 9th. We were well used by all the agents at St. Paul, Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton. We will leave for Beaver Lake this coming winter.

Yours truly,

(Signed) ARTHUR McGEE,

DOMINA LETOURNEAU,

GEORGE LETOURNEAU,

Withrow Station, Minn.

BRECKENRIDGE, GRATIOT Co.,

MICHIGAN, 4th Oct., 1898.

M. V. McINNES, Esq.,

Chief Canadian Government Agent,
Detroit, Michigan.

DEAR SIR,—After quite an extended trip through Manitoba, Alberta and Western Canada generally, I wish to report to you and the public that the country through which I travelled far exceeded, in its fine

climate and resources, my utmost expectations. I found Western Canada to be all that the Government pamphlets and official publications claimed for it. The land is the very richest that I ever saw. I believe that a man with the true snap in him can make a grand home for himself in a short time, in this well-favoured country.

There was one remarkable thing I saw all along the route at every place of any note, and that was well-constructed grain elevators of immense capacity. This spoke louder to me than all the pamphlets I read, for men do not spend money that way simply for show. They expect them to be filled with grain, and I am certain, from what I saw, that they will not be disappointed.

At Winnipeg we met Mr. W. F. McCreary, the Commissioner of Immigration, and Mr. Taylor, of the Immigration Bureau. They are both very courteous and obliging, and gentlemen in every sense of the word. In regard to their respective offices, they are, to my mind, the right men in the right place.

We were next introduced to Mr. Bedford, of the Experimental Farm at Brandon, Manitoba. He is a very painstaking gentleman, and showed us particularly what could be grown to the best advantage, so far as his experiments went, and they were very extensive and precise. I was exceedingly well pleased with what he accomplished by proper care and good management.

The next place we visited was Virden, in Manitoba. We were met here by Mr. Davidson, a Government official and very kind man, who treated us well and gave us a two days' drive around the country. We saw a great many splendid farms, and excellent crops. The farmers and their families were all sturdy, healthy people. This spoke volumes for the climate, which is remarkably

healthy. They were all well pleased with their future prospects, for the land of Virden is wonderfully rich and yields amazing crops.

We next arrived at Edmonton, where we soon got acquainted with Mr. Sutter, the local Government agent at that place. He also, with every mark of courtesy, drove us about the country for two days. We went in a north-easterly direction as far as Fort Saskatchewan, and then took a sweep to the southward and back to Edmonton through a wide tract of magnificent country, abounding in splendid crops and fine cattle. The farmers here seemed to be most active and industrious, and well satisfied with their circumstances and surroundings.

My friend, Mr. Barnes, with whom I travelled, was greatly taken with this Edmonton district, which is grand, healthy and promising, without a doubt. Then we returned to Innisfail, where we were met by Mr. Bemp, another agreeable official, and enjoyed with him another two days' drive into the surrounding country, which is excellently adapted for mixed farming, and settled with a thriving and contented peasantry. There is a fine Government creamery at this place. We paid a visit to it and found it to be well-appointed and in good working order. The returns made to the farmers for their cream are highly satisfactory to them.

Our next trip was to Dauphin, in the northern section of Manitoba. The local agent, Mr. Mowat, took charge of us and we had another two days' drive under his efficient management. He drove us to several prominent points and through the famous Gilbert plains. Dauphin and its beautiful surroundings constitutes a rich and fertile country, abounding in grain and root crops of the very finest order, and is settled by an in-

telligent, wideawake and prosperous people.

All the different districts of the country which we had the pleasure of visiting were rich and inviting, but, to my mind, the Dauphin district surpassed them all in fertility of soil, and all those accessories to husbandry which go to make up substantial agricultural communities, and well suited in every particular for a practical farmer's home. Nowhere did we see the slightest dissatisfaction among the farmers, who were everywhere contented and happy, but on every side we perceived the undoubted evidences of wonderful abundance and great prosperity.

I have every respect for the Government officials whom we met. They paid us every possible attention, and are admirably adapted to perform the responsible duties of their respective stations.

In conclusion, I will say in the most candid manner, that Western Canada is the country, of all others, for the industrious farmer to make his home.

I remain, dear sir,

Very respectfully yours,

J. McALLUM.

WINNIPEG, 8th Oct., 1898.

WILLIAM F. McCREARY, Esq.,
Immigration Commissioner,
Winnipeg, Man.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to submit the following report to you with the hope that it may succeed in dispelling a little of the unjust prejudice which is even to-day experienced amongst some of our American citizens, thinking, perhaps, that the publication of a little fact like this may help to allay some of this poor feeling.

I, E. Ferguson, from Brookings Co., South Dakota, visited the Edmonton district in the months of June and July, for the purpose of finding a suitable location for myself, and acting otherwise as a delegate in the interests of a number of the surrounding farmers. I was so much impressed with the country that I decided to locate and am now on my way up with a car of effects. I found a great deal of opposition before leaving the United States, everybody combining in efforts to try and stop my emigrating; in fact, the amount of information they possessed of an adverse nature was simply appalling. One party in particular seemed very bitter, and upon my informing him that I had already visited the district and was returning, satisfied with my own judgment, he collapsed. I further informed him that I would have neither the Canadian Government nor the Canadian Pacific Railway to blame should things not prosper with me, and related the following one of my experiences north of Edmonton. I found two French boys settled in the neighbourhood of township 57, range 25 west of 4th meridian. They came into the country about four years ago with nothing, they told me that they had managed to peg along, to break up twenty acres after the first year, which they cropped and threshed out 800 bushels of No. 1 hard wheat. This helped them along; they then broke other twenty acres, making in all 40 acres, which they had cropped the fall previous to my visit, threshing 1,900 bushels of as good a wheat as man could want to look at. They had good buildings and 8 head of cattle, besides calves and 8 horses, and a pile of lumber ready for use, 6 feet high, 18 x 14. Now, I said to my adversary, I reckon if those two young men whom I questioned and found out did not owe a dollar,

could get along like that in four years, then I want to try the same country and do the same, and I don't see what is to hinder me.

I then asked him what he was doing, and he told me that he was doing odd jobs, he had been marshal, &c. I asked him why he could not be a man and go out and make a living like an honest man for his family, as I do. "Well," he said, "I've been thinking of it for some time. I guess your right."

(Signed) E. FERGUSON.

ALAMEDA, ASSA.,

14th-October, 1898.

WILLIAM F. MCCREARY, Esq.,
Immigration Commissioner.
Winnipeg, Man.

SIR,—Our delegation, consisting of W. H. Lacey, Mitchellville, Polk County, Iowa; Thomas Keyes, of the same place; and Frank Goetz, of Clark, Clark County, South Dakota; left Winnipeg in charge of Mr. Mair, on the 7th instant, by the South-Western and Souris branch of the C. P. R., for a trip through Southern Manitoba, and on to Moose Mountain, in Eastern Assiniboia.

En route to Elm Creek we passed numerous farms and hay meadows with, apparently, a good supply of small timber, reaching Carman, by a spur line, for dinner. Returning to Elm Creek, we went on to Rathwell, mainly over flat, low-lying prairies, with, in many parts, belts or clumps of small poplar. hay meadows and occasional swamps, a region, it seemed to us, quite suited to stock-raising and mixed farming, though we saw very few cattle. Presently we passed, in succession, the innumerable stooks and stacks of Treherne, Holland and Glenboro', each of which the yield is this year about twenty bushels to the acre. We may say, in

passing, however, that eight to ten bushels to the acre is the ordinary yield of wheat in our States, though here it seems to be looked upon as a failure.

From Nesbit westward the country is treeless, but all along the line of settlement coal is in general use, brought from La Roche Percée, costing at Melita, \$3.50 a ton, and at Alameda, \$2.90, but many farmers draw their own coal from the mines, buying it there at \$1.25 per ton. The coal crumbles somewhat freely upon exposure, burns quickly and leaves much ash, but the quality is constantly improving as the miners penetrate further into the seams. There is a great extent of coal-bearing country—a fact of immense importance in the future to Southern Manitoba and Assinibola.

Beyond Glenboro' we passed on to Souris, which is the junction of the Pipestone branch of the C. P. R., now under construction to Moose Mountain, thence to Melita, and the next day to Alameda, where we made preparations for our trip north to Moose Mountain, and the region between it and Mann's construction camp on the Pipestone projection.

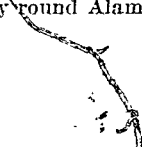
The soil of the region on the route described is pretty much of the same character throughout, though with some exception. The Brandon hills soil is sharp and stony, as at Nesbit, and towards Souris. At Hartney the gravel is often turned up by the plough, yet though seemingly poor, this land has returned a good average of wheat for seventeen years. But, generally speaking, the soil from Hartney to Oxbow is much alike, consisting of a surface of humus and loam, from eighteen inches to three feet in depth, resting upon a very hard mixture of sand and clay, imposed upon loose gravel and sand, with marl or blue clay beneath.

At Alameda the surface soil is heavier, but the subsoils are the same. The whole country is flat, or slightly rolling, except, of course, the Brandon Hills, and is watered partly by the Assiniboine River and its tributaries, the Souris and Moose Creek. Water is found at all depths, from twelve to forty feet, mostly good, though here and there it is alkali, and near Alameda a flowing well was struck by boring, which gives out a great volume of mineralized water. But, generally speaking, all around Alameda the settlers have found good water at easy depths.

From Glen Ewen westward, and in the Alameda district there is much unsettled and uncultivated land belonging to absentees, speculators and non-resident pre-emptors, but a great deal of homestead land is still open for entry a few miles from Alameda, which is very inviting and convenient to this market town. There is fairly good hay found in the Alameda country, which would be much more abundant but for prairie fires, and north-west of Pierson there are extensive flats where the Melita people go for hay, and which is a promising cattle country, though the land itself is somewhat light and stony. Hail in some parts is unknown, but in others does injury at times, and high winds are not common, and consequently grain or hay stacks are never tied down as with us. All in all, the country divided by the Souris railway is a very fine one for farming, and could be made finer and surer still by varied husbandry. If we might point out a serious defect, it would be the absence of mixed farming. Southern Manitoba depends as much on wheat alone as many of our States do on corn. But even in our corn States we raise cattle and pigs upon it—that is to say, cattle are coralled

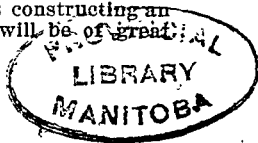
and fed on corn fodder and the pigs fed on the excreta of the cattle. This may seem odd to your people, but by no other method could our farmers there make a living. We find in Southern Manitoba that the sole dependence is in wheat. A few cows are kept, and we heard of one man, a Mr. Dobbin, near Melita, who makes 100 pounds of butter weekly. There is, therefore, some dairying here and there, but not much. The farmers buy their flour at the mills, their beef and pork from the butcher or merchant, and barley and oats are only raised to feed their horses, corn being sometimes brought from the States for this purpose. The straw is all burned and no manure is, of course, available for the land, which is generally summer-fallowed. In our opinion, no land on the continent would, in the long run, stand this continuous cropping with wheat, nor does the manifestly great success of wheat growing here, or, in fact, on any soil, justify it. Perhaps one result of this indifference to stock raising is ignorance of values. We were told that in some places lately along the line farmers had been selling what spring calves they possessed at \$7, and yearlings at \$12 each, whilst in South Dakota the like spring calves are worth just now \$15 and \$25, and the boon price of \$35 for choice yearling animals is freely paid. We find fault in this way with some reserve, our duty being to report upon the farming capabilities of the country for the information of our friends at home, but we venture to point out that the wheat lands have been exhausted in many States just in this way, and these have been forced back on Indian corn, which must be handled as we have described to make a living.

After a highly satisfactory look at the country round Alameda, we left on Monday



morning for Moose Mountain. Northward from Alameda for fourteen miles to Dalesboro, the country is rolling and intersected by several wide and ancient dry water-courses. Here and there, too, the country is streaked with small boulders and the soil itself, which is a vegetable mould of about 12 inches, resting upon a yellowish clay loam of great depth is mixed with a fine gravelly limestone, excellent for wheat. Towards the Anderson farm the land is free from boulders which are, in fact, not generally distributed over the country, but only in drifts here and there. It was here that we began to see evidences of mixed farming and to notice that cattle rapidly increased in numbers as we passed onwards to Moose Mountain, where stock-raising is now a large industry. The Andersons, at Dalesboro, have about sixty head of cattle and feed their straw to them in winter, during which period the cattle must be housed. These farmers mean to grow their entire feed for their cattle hereafter. Their yield of wheat is twenty bushels to the acre, and of oats forty-five. Pigs do well, and poultry, but as yet they are few in number, and vegetables of all kinds are of the best quality. Water is found here at about twelve feet. Repeated trials may fail, but on almost every quarter-section there is a "sand spot," which, if hit upon, yields good water. There has been no hail here for ten years; but the usual storms occur as everywhere else in the plain country in the winter season.

Shortly after leaving Dalesboro we came in sight of Moose Mountain, stretching for thirty-six miles from east to west, and eighteen miles wide. To this mountain settlers come for timber from all quarters, and around it the Government is constructing an immense fire-guard, which will be of great



value hereafter in protecting the timber in the mountain. For a few miles settlement was sparse, but thickened as we neared the mountain, which showed up loftily in the horizon, though its elevation is not very great. Nearing it we found that along its southern slope it was thickly settled. Here are some very substantial farmers who, to a man, are stock raisers as well as grain growers, such as Thompson, McEachan, Smith, Kippen, Hislop, and many others, most of whom have been here for fifteen years, and are now well off. Mr. Hislop, at whose place we spent the night, has this year sixty-five acres in wheat, thirty in oats and owns fifty cattle, his return being 20 bushels of wheat to the acre. He feeds his straw in winter, the cattle remaining in the mountain all summer and only coming down as winter comes on. In the immense ranges of the mountain hay is found in vast meadows, and in unlimited quantities, and some settlers draw it home for winter feeding, but, in general, they build cabins for stockmen and winter their cattle in the numberless hollows, forests and grooves in the mountain itself, where there is no end of ponds, besides two large lakes, abounding in fish. The extent of cattle raising there already is shown by the driving to Moosomin for export of a thousand head of three-year-olds within the last fortnight. The mountain, which looks as if it had at one time been an island in a great inland lake or sea, is bare upon its slopes, but on its top eighteen miles wide is tumbled into hills, valleys and flats, with many places quite suited for grain growing. Some big ranges, we believe, have been leased from the Government at two cents an acre, but this is no obstacle to homesteading, which, we presume, might be

done anywhere except on forest land. There is a belt of about three miles in depth skirting the southern foot of the mountain, where frost is unknown. South of it the vicissitudes correspond with other regions. In the northern parts are the big cattle ranges referred to, and there is any amount of homestead land there, but this side the soil, though first class in quality is said to be subject to frost, which cultivation will, no doubt here, as elsewhere, get rid of hereafter.

Towards the north on the western spur there are now some extensive sheep ranches, the total flocks numbering at present over twenty thousand, and in the mountain itself red and jumping deer are still numerous. Along the plain we saw hundreds of gray geese and cranes, many of them feeding on the stubbles, almost careless of our passing, and prairie chickens, too, we are told, are plentiful. The prairie soil carries about six inches of humus impregnated with fine limestone, resting on five or six feet of clay, underlaid by gravel, excellent water being found by sinking into the latter from 12 to 30 feet. Hail is not troublesome, the occasional tempests are not destructive, and grain is never wilted by scorching hot winds as with us. Breaking is done with three horses, and the plough scours perfectly. Barley does well, but little is raised, the principal grain being oats, which are fed to stock. Though the settlers get their flour at the grist mill at Cannington Manor, their wheat market at present is Alameda, which is a long haul. Last year about ten thousand bushels were sold there, cattle weighing over 1,250 bringing three cents, with deduction of 5 per cent for loss and feeding and watering, which is absurd.

The Pipestone Railway extension will, of course, equalize markets next year, and save this long transport. There are no pigs, poultry or butter sent out as yet, but the settlers generally raise what they need. Summer-fallowing and sowing on stubble are both practised, the latter being followed after one year of fallowing. The settlers generally came in poor, and are now well off and, considering that many of them have been denied railway facilities for fifteen years, they certainly deserve their success. There is not so much good homestead land in the vicinity of the mountain on the south side now available. On the east side, from Cannington eastward to the Pipestone Extension grade, there is a very large extent of country open for entry, and this region we passed through on our way to Mr. Mann's construction camp. It is more rolling than any we have yet seen, the soil being excellent, and there are numberless dried-up ponds in all directions bearing excellent hay. The objection is boulders, with which the region is more or less strewn, but these are confined entirely to the surface, and some people think them an advantage and useful to the farmer in many ways in this country, where quarries are unknown. Numerous houses and outbuildings are constructed of them, and as limestone boulders are common, they are burned when required, and save the importation of lime.

Crossing the country to Mr. Mann's railway camp, we found a large gang of men at work on the grade sixteen miles west of Reston, which, of course, in a country like this is all earthwork, with easy gradients. The intention is to go on whilst weather permits, and no doubt next summer will see the line in working order to Moose Mountain, or its neighbourhood. We noticed particularly

the excellent board given to the men, abundance of food and of the best quality.

The same night we crossed country to the French Settlement—some thirty families from Belgium and France, living in sod houses, but generally making headway—and the following morning passed through the English Settlement, on the North Antler, the creek here being really a fine stream. Some fifty families are settled in these parts, with comfortable surroundings, and all are prospering. Thence we returned to Alameda, having travelled some 250 miles by wagon train across country and seen an immense extent of first-class land which the new railway will open for settlement, and which we can justly recommend to our friends.

On our return to Alameda we drove across country to La Roche Percée, partly to examine the lands on the route, but immediately to look into the coal measures there, which, as settlers are now hauling wood from Moose Mountain to the settlements visited (in some cases thirty-five miles) is of incalculable importance to the rich agricultural regions we have described, but as this, and our impressions of the country divided by the "Soo" line of railway will form a separate report, we need add nothing further here, other than a list of prices of agricultural implements and other important items, for the guidance of our friends.

In conclusion, we can say that there is such a chance offered to the right American farmer in Western Canada as is nowhere else found on this continent. If he does not take advantage of it he is blind to his own interests. Here the tenant farmer of the Western States, who is now hopelessly ground down between the landlord and the tax-gatherer can become the owner of a first-class homestead for \$10, or he can buy

out and out the pick of railway land for less money than he pays yearly per acre in rental in our States. In Polk County, for example, in Iowa, taxes on a quarter-section average \$117 ; the rentals run up to \$5 an acre, and where land is rented on shares the owner gets a clear half of the return, the lessee furnishing seed, machinery and labour. If he has a failure and cannot pay, no mercy is shown him ; he has to move off. This is the widespread condition which has been reached at last in our States in which half and, in many places, two-thirds of our farmers are tenants at the mercy of cast-iron leases and remorseless landlords. To our friends, and we represent several hundred, we shall simply say, upon our return : In Western Canada is a land as rich in natural resources as these States, a well-governed country in which you can find not only the fairest prospects of success, but, in all probability, the last chance of the American tenant farmer for land ownership and independence.

(Signed) FRANK GOETZ,

Clark, Clark Co., S. Dakota.

THOMAS KEYES,

Mitchellville, Polk Co., Iowa.

W. H. LACEY,

Mitchellville, Polk Co., Iowa.

PRICES OF IMPLEMENTS AT ALAMEDA.

American Make.

McCormick Binder.....	\$155 00
McCormick Mower.....	55 00
Rake (Thomas), 8 foot.....	28 00
Plough, Moline Breaker.....	22 50
Stubble Plough, 14 inch.....	23 00
Sulky Plough, 16 inch.....	58 00
Sulky Moline Butchman.....	58 00
Sulky Gang Moline or Canton.....	78 00
Iron Harrows, 3 sec. clip or nut.....	13 50
Seed Drill, 14 hoe.....	75 00
Fish Wagon.....	80 00
Mitchell Wagon.....	80 00
Chatham (Ont.).....	75 00

Canadian Make.

Massey-Harris Steel Binder.....	138 00
Massey-Harris Mower.....	50 00
Massey-Harris Horse Rake.....	28 00
Sulky Plough, 16 inch.....	50 00
Combination Plough, 2 mold boards and 2 points.....	25 00
Cross or Stubble Plough.....from \$15 to	20 00
Seed Drill, 14 hoe.....	75 00
Seed Drill, 12 hoe.....	65 00
Wagon, complete.....	70 00
Top Buggies.....from \$75 to	95 00
Binding Twine.....10 cents per pound.	

LUMBER—G. H. KNOWLING.

Rough Lumber per M.....	\$18 05
2 x 4 to 2 x 12, Dem. No. 1.....	22 80
2 x 4 to 2 x 12, Dem. No. 2.....	21 00
Fir flooring.....	25 65
Fir and pine siding.....	25 65
6 in. shiplap.....	20 90
No. 1 B. C. cedar shingles, per M.....	3 10
No. 2 B. C. cedar shingles, per M.....	2 80
Tar paper, best.....	1 00
White paper.....	0 75
Lath, per M.....	3 60
Cedar posts, 13 ft.....	25½ cents.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.,
17th October, 1898.

Mr. McINNES.

DEAR SIR,—I live seven miles from Grand Rapids. I was at the state fair, and though I had read some pamphlets about the land in Canada I was surprised at the fine show of grain and grasses that I saw there, and I started the next week to see the country myself. It cost me a good bit the way I went, but I am not sorry. I think Canada west is a great place, such fine farms for the cost of going there. I only wish I had known about it sooner. I found Manitoba pretty well taken up. I went to the Alameda country and found the farmers contented, and so they might be for they have a good crop, many of them that went up only last year. All the land between the village of Alameda and the Moose Mountains is very good. There was a good deal of rain in Manitoba, but not so much farther west. I liked the country about Edmonton and Red Deer very well—plenty of wood and coal. I saw a great many cattle and horses in the Alberta country. A man don't know a place till he sees it. I expected to find good land, but I did not expect to find the country so well supplied with schools and churches, cheese factories, creameries, and grain elevators, and good farm buildings.

Well, Mr. McInnes, I want you to write me and tell me how much it will cost me and my family to go to Red Deer station. I know a few people about there, and I am satisfied there is no better place in the country. They have done well and got pretty well off. I have two boys, one will soon be 18 years old, the other is 16. One girl 14, one 11, boy 9, one girl 7, and myself and wife. I will take my horses, and perhaps a couple

of cows, but I will tell you more particulars. I have a chance to sell my place and will go about the first of April. They told me that was the best time to go.

The big show you made at Grand Rapids was a great thing for Canada west. It made a great many talk about it, and every one is asking me about the Canadian west since I came back. ~~I did not see so much of it as~~ I should like. I just tell them as I tell you, and that I am going to move there in the spring with my family. I believe a great many more will go, too. You might send me a few books to give my neighbours.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

I remain, yours truly,

(Signed) JOHN BOWEN.

MOOSE JAW, 17th October, 1898.

WILLIAM F. MCCREARY, Esq.,
Immigration Commissioner,
Winnipeg, Man.

In order to examine the coal mines at La Roche Percée and the country generally along the "Soo" line, we drove to the former place on the 14th instant.

From Baron Hirsch colony in this line to La Roche Percée the country is rolling and so strewn with boulders as to involve a good deal of labour in removing them. They are here rather plentiful, yet the country otherwise is fairly good, and being in the vicinity of the mines ought to prosper hereafter. There is much homestead land for entry towards La Roche Percée and southward to the boundary, some twelve miles off, and although somewhat light yet it would be accounted "good country" in many of our states. The coal seams extend beneath the clay bluffs along the Souris River, the bluffs having a curiously calcined appearance

owing to fires which have smouldered here amongst the exposed coal in times past. The two exporting mines now worked are the La Roche Percée and the Souris, the latter of which we visited, walking to the end of the two-thousand foot tunnel, accompanied by the manager, Mr. Cockburn. The seam now worked is over seven feet thick, and the coal seems more compact and hard as the tunnel extends. Some fifty miners are employed here, who work with steam augers and gunpowder, cutting into the seams at the rate of six feet a day per man. The tunnel is well ventilated by an immense firestack and by compressed air, and the "rooms" from which the coal is mined indicate an unlimited extent of mineral. The coal is loaded at the mine in farmers' wagons at \$1.25 a ton, and on the cars F.O.B. at \$1.50—so that whatever cost is entailed beyond this is due to freight. There are several other smaller mines which we did not visit, but from what we saw it is perfectly plain that one of the great coal measures of the continent is here. Our friends, therefore, whom we advise to settle in the country described in our previous report, need feel no apprehension as to fuel. It is here in inexhaustible quantities and at a cost so low as to place it within the reach of all. Indeed, in a treeless country the fuel question in the farmer's mind stands next to water, and rightly so, and it was in view of this that we visited La Roche Percée and satisfied ourselves upon this extremely important point. There can be no doubt that as the vast regions dependent for fuel upon these mines are settled, a large town will arise here and the lands in the vicinity now available to homesteader or purchaser will become valuable. At present there is not even a village, and La Roche Percée consists of a small section house which is closed

in summer, yet the "Soo." line runs through this country with daily express trains east and west, and we cannot quite understand why the lands in its neighbourhood have not been taken up. Where we tested with our borer on the upper prairie levels the soil showed about a foot of surface humus and two feet of yellow clay, probably much deeper still. Well water on the upper prairie level is a point upon which we can pass no opinion, and could get none. As it is got at Hirsch, however, at fifteen feet, it is reasonable to suppose that it can be easily reached here. The country south to the boundary resembles that just referred to, and at Portal, thirteen miles away on the mountain side, there is a considerable settlement already. The Dunbars, a family there we were told threshed out five thousand bushels of wheat and sixteen hundred of oats this fall. But in this region there is scarcely any settlement as yet. It seems strange, as we have said, that so much land is vacant here, but though not so inviting as the regions described in our first report, such a country is too good to remain long unoccupied.

We may add that the explanation given us is that some settlers came in during dry years who not doing as well as they expected, left for other parts, whilst others objected to Jewish settlement being formed so near them, and in this way the region may have got an unfavourable name. The settlers who remained, however, are doing quite as well as those who abandoned their homesteads here and went elsewhere.

Our next examination was of the Weyburn district, sixty miles west of La Roche Percée, a region typical of the whole country from Halbrite to Pasqua. About Estevan the soil is sharp and sandy, but westward from Halbrite the surface soil is hummocky and dif-

fers much from what we have seen at Moose Mountain and elsewhere. There is no surface humus, but a deep layer of grayish-brown clay loam instead of unknown depth, our tester only sinking to four feet. This is the sort of soil we understand which has made the Indian Head district famous for its yield of wheat, and it seems to sweep right-down-from-there unchanged in character until, as we approach the Yellow Grass Marsh, the gray loam clay rests at eighteen inches upon a loose, light yellow clay similar to that at La Roche Percée.

The country is well watered by the Souris River and its tributaries, the Long, the Brokenshell, and the two Rough Bark Creeks. There are besides numerous ponds of water, once dry but now filling up again, and well water is easily found in the neighbourhood of the streams named. But away from these there are no wells and no tests have been made, and it would be advisable, and in our opinion we think it very important that a borer should be put to work to ascertain at what depth water can be found.

The prairie grass is rich all over, and the enormous meadow known as the "Yellow Grass Marsh," one of the most extensive in all the North-west, being twenty-five miles long from south-east to north-west, and from a half to several miles wide, puts the high supply beyond peradventure. It is no exaggeration to say that the growth of this vast meadow alone would winter-feed 100,000 cattle. Its hay is of the best quality, keeps juicy until frost sets in and being wet at the root can only be burned just after the snow melts. It thus generally escapes prairie fires, saving those which are purposely set out by the ranchers each spring, and yields an unfailing and unlimited supply of first-class fodder.

The wood supply is considerable for a plain

country. The Marsh receives the Broken-shell Creek on which there is a great abundance of elm and ash within fourteen miles of Weyburn, and discharges by one of the Rough Bark Creeks into the Souris about twenty-five miles below the section house on which also there is timber.

South of Weyburn, on a coulée, in the Dirt Hills connecting with Long Creek, there are extensive seams of coal fully equal in quality to the Roche Percée product, and from which settlers take supplies. Here, as there, it has been on fire, and even on the surface of the bank it is quite fit for household use. It is also found on Long Creek, and lumps of it are picked out of the Souris in this district, all of which shows how widespread is the all-important mineral. Throughout the region as yet, the sole industry is cattle raising. On the Moose Jaw, Brokenshell and Rough Bark Creeks there are between forty and fifty cattle-raisers, some of whom have been here since 1882, and whose herds run from sixty to three hundred. Further south and west of Weyburn are several breeders whose herds exceed these. One Paschal Bonneau shipped two train-loads lately largely of his own raising. His range is on the Big Muddy within the Coteau Missouri, sixty miles west of Weyburn. The range, in fact, is immense in all directions, Weyburn being about forty-five miles north of the boundary and prices are good—three-year-olds bring 34 cents, calves \$15, whilst good yearlings fetch \$22.50, when sold at all.

In all this immense country there is not a thresher from Estevan to Pasqua, and but one solitary wheat-grower, a Mr. Hunt, whose wheat this year averages, he believes, twenty-five bushels to the acre. It is a very fine sample of No. 1 hard, slightly damaged by lying too long in the stook. His oats and

field peas were capital, and his garden stuffs as good of their kind as elsewhere. His wheat and other grain he feeds to his pigs, which thrive. Sheep do not seem to be much raised here as yet, and but little poultry, and there is no dairying, though much cream might be sent by rail to Moose Jaw. The climate differs little from Southern Manitoba, but spring rains are more plentiful and it seems to be comparatively free from frost.

A considerable number of homestead entries have been made recently, principally by people from Indian Head who pronounce the region equal to their own, but these are a mere drop in the sea of land open for entry throughout the region penetrated by the "Soo" line.

South-west of here, and skirting the line at a considerable distance from it from Estevan north-westerly, stretches the great elevation known as the Coteau Missouri, within which is a broken, tumbled country with numerous lakes and creeks and extensive hay regions which we had not time to enter and cannot, therefore, describe, but which we were assured was eminently suited for stock-raising, and into which very few have as yet penetrated. Our observations were confined to the plain country we have described. If it is strange that settlements have not been formed in the La Roche Percée country, it is doubly strange as regards the Weyburn district since so many important settlements have been formed years ago directly north of it. We can only surmise that people went to the parts where their friends had gone before them. But here, neglected and almost unknown is a vast region of striking importance and value, both for wheat-growing and stock-raising. The trains of the Canadian Pacific Railway, "Soo" branch, pass through it every day, yet there

is not even a village in the whole distance nor even a hotel or a stopping place save the section houses which stand solitary and alone in the midst of one of the finest regions for mixed farming we have ever beheld.

In a word, this region is equal, and in some respects superior to anything we have yet seen. We have written warmly of other regions in our previous report with the facts in sight to fully justify us. But there or here our friends, if they work for it, are equally sure of success—that success indeed which has notoriously attended every diligent family in this prosperous and well-governed country.

(Signed) THOMAS KEYES.

Mitchellville, Polk Co., Iowa.

W. H. LACEY,

Mitchellville, Polk Co., Iowa.

EDMONTON, ALTA., 19th Sept., 1898.

Mr. SUTTER.

Before I leave Edmonton I wish to state that I arrived at Edmonton on the 9th day of September, 1898, and have been travelling through the country by team looking for land to buy, and inquiring of farmers in regard to crops and find them prosperous, and only found one that offered me his farm. The wheat, oats and barley are the best I ever saw; the wheat that I saw in the shock, in a very large number of the places that I examined, will yield forty bushels and over to the acre; oats in a number of fields 60 to 70; barley 40 to 50; all of the finest quality. I further state that I have been farming and interested in farming for the last 30 years in the States.

Respectfully.

(Signed) THOMAS BROWN,

Grundy Centre, Iowa, U.S.A.

If after reading this pamphlet any further information is required, application may be made to any of the following officials :—

IN CANADA.

The Superintendent of Immigration,
Department of Interior, Ottawa.
The Commissioner of Immigration,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

M. V. McINNES,
No. 1 Merrill Block, Detroit, Michigan.
D. L. CAVAN,
Bad Axe, Michigan.
JAMES GRIEVE,
Mount Pleasant, Michigan.
J. S. CRAWFORD,
214 W. 9th St., Kansas City, Missouri.
BENJAMIN DAVIES,
154 East Third Street, St. Paul, Minn.
T. O. CURRIE,
Stevens Point, Wisconsin.
C. J. BROUGHTON,
1223 Monadnock Building, Chicago, Ill.
W. V. BENNETT,
801 N. Y. Life Building, Omaha, Neb.
W. H. ROGERS,
Watertown, South Dakota.
N. BARTHOLOMEW,
306 Fifth Street, Des Moines, Iowa.
J. H. M. PARKER,
502 Palladio Building, Duluth, Minn.
WILLIAM RITCHIE,
Grafton, North Dakota.
E. T. HOLMES,
154 East Third Street, St. Paul, Minn.

